



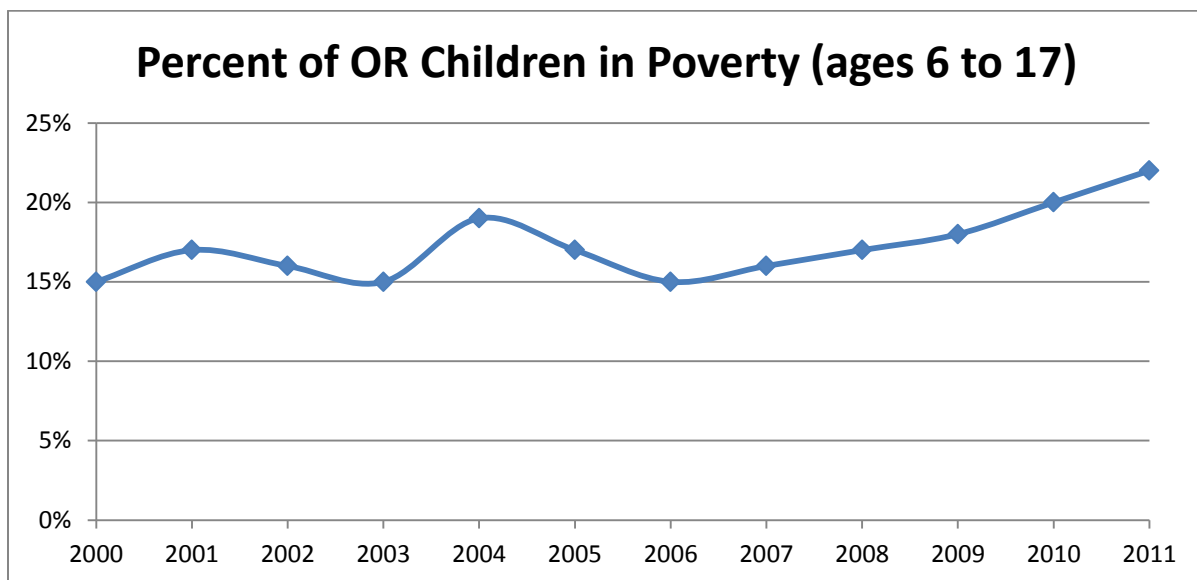
Support HB 2098 to Ensure Every Student Counts

Widely cited research has shown that low-income students need extra support and resources to succeed in school. Despite this, Oregon's outdated statute requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to allocate resources in a way that does not adequately or accurately address the needs of students in poverty.

ODE must use data from the U.S. Census to determine the number of students living in poverty who will receive an additional weighting under the State School Fund formula. Unfortunately for many Oregon students living in poverty, the most recent U.S. Census - taken in 2010 - did not collect poverty data. Data from the 2000 Census does not capture children whose families have been impacted by the Great Recession.

ODE cannot provide additional resources to the districts for poor students it doesn't know are there.

We know that more students are living in poverty since the 2000 Census was taken. According to data from Children First for Oregon, the percent of children age 6 to 17 living in poverty in Oregon has risen from 15 percent in 2000 to 22 percent in 2011.



All students living in poverty must be counted and districts need additional resources to serve them.

HB 2098 amends Oregon law to allow ODE and the State Board of Education to determine the best tool to measure the number of students living in poverty. It does not change the poverty weighting formula. As the number of students living in poverty rises, we need to be able to capture accurately who is accounted for and who is missing from the picture.

Stand for Children and the Oregon Department of Education are asking legislators to support HB 2098 to ensure every student counts!

For questions, contact Toya Fick at tfick@stand.org or 443-996-6675.