



**DATE:** March 4, 2015

**TO:** Oregon State Legislature Senate Education Committee Members

**FROM:** Mary McKay, Superintendent, Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District  
Erin Prince, Superintendent, Corvallis School District

**RE:** Senate Bill 135 -*Allows Department of Education to pay for costs of education of students in eligible day treatment programs and eligible residential treatment programs by making grants in aid to school districts where programs are located.*

We respectfully ask that you accept this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 35 as proposed. We understand that there is a pending amendment that would address our concerns and are conditionally willing to support the bill with such amendment.

Suggested remedies include:

1. Amend the bill to allow for education service districts to receive payment in the form of grant in aid for providing the educational program to residential and day treatment facilities.
2. Amend the bill to reflect current practice where Oregon Department of Education (ODE) enters into contractual agreements with districts and education service districts to provide the educational program for students in residential treatment and day treatment programs.
3. If the bill is not amended through 1 or 2 above, we ask that already established contracts between ODE and current service providers be grandfathered in until school districts in which the programs are located request a change.

Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District (LBL) currently provides the educational program for students in the Trillium Family Services (TFS) Residential Treatment Program located in Corvallis, Oregon. This program is known as Children's Farm Home School. Through a sub-contract with LBL, Old Mill Center (located in Corvallis, Oregon) provides the educational program for students in day treatment. Lastly, LBL provides the educational program for students in the TFS Day Treatment Program located in West Salem, Oregon at Wake Robin School.

These services are provided through one contract between LBL and Oregon Department of Education (ODE). The services provided in Corvallis began in 2006 due to a request from Corvallis School District that LBL, rather than the district, provide the educational program for the students located at Children's Farm Home School and Old Mill Center. In 2012, LBL began providing educational services to the students in the new day treatment program in West Salem at the request of TFS due to the established relationship between Trillium and LBL as provider of other educational programs.

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Mary McKay  
Superintendent

Frank Bricker  
Board Member

David Dowrie  
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David Dunsdon  
Board Member

Janet E. Doerfler  
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Myrea Estell  
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Heather Search  
Board Member

Current law requires that the district in which the facility is located be responsible for educating students residing in Long Term Care and Treatment facilities and those in day treatment programs. However, current practice allows the agency providing the educational program to work directly with ODE to develop and implement the contract.

Changing this practice will result in additional use of resources (both financial and time) for districts, educational service districts and other agencies.

Requiring that funding be routed through the school district where the programs are located would result in inefficiencies on many levels.

1. Corvallis School District would be required to develop an agreement/assurances with ODE then a subsequent sub-contract with LBL to provide the educational services at Children's Farm Home School (residential treatment).
2. Corvallis School District would be required to develop an agreement/assurances with ODE then a subsequent sub-contract with Old Mill Center to provide the day treatment education program.
3. Salem-Keizer School District would be required to develop an agreement/assurances with ODE then a subsequent sub-contract with LBL to provide the day treatment education program at Wake Robin School.

This bill also may put current successful working relationships at risk. For example, Trillium Family Services and Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District have developed a positive and effective working relationship that maximizes both educational and mental health services. Changing the manner in which funds are allocated may have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting the ability of the agency providing the educational service to work directly with the mental health facility.

In summary, we ask that the bill be amended to allow for a direct relationship between ODE and the agency providing the educational program or that established agreements remain in place. We offer our assistance in crafting language that would support such an amendment.

We respectfully thank you for your consideration.



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Mary McKay, Superintendent  
Linn Benton Lincoln ESD



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Erin Prince, Superintendent  
Corvallis School District