



Extending Developmental Delay Eligibility to Elementary School

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Background

- 1986. IDEA mandated services be extended to age 3. The developmental delay (DD) eligibility category was added at this time. Oregon used the most restrictive definition of DD.
- 1997. IDEA reauthorized and made it possible for states to extend the DD eligibility through 3rd grade. 30 states have done this.
- 2018. Approximately 200 children in Oregon are in the situation of having an eligibility of DD in ECSE and not fitting a school age eligibility for special education at the time of transition.

Anticipated Impacts of Extending Developmental Disability Eligibility

- Continuity between EI/ECSE and K-12 would offer a smooth transition for students so they can learn with the right supports.
- Valuable learning time would be reclaimed for kids who have to experience failure before they are evaluated for services again.
- More information and time for school district staff to make better decisions about eligibility, needs, and services.

Potential Concerns

Concern:

Potential increase in numbers of children in special education when many districts are already over the state cap for weighted funding.

Current reality: Approximately 200 kids statewide are in this situation. National data from states with extended DD eligibility into elementary school do not indicate significant increases in special education placements.

Concern:

School personnel may need training on measures to use to evaluate developmental delay.

Current reality: This requirement should begin in 2019 so ODE can develop and implement a plan to provide training.

Why Extend the DD Eligibility?

DD eligibilities improve services for students and families with a negligible impact on Districts.

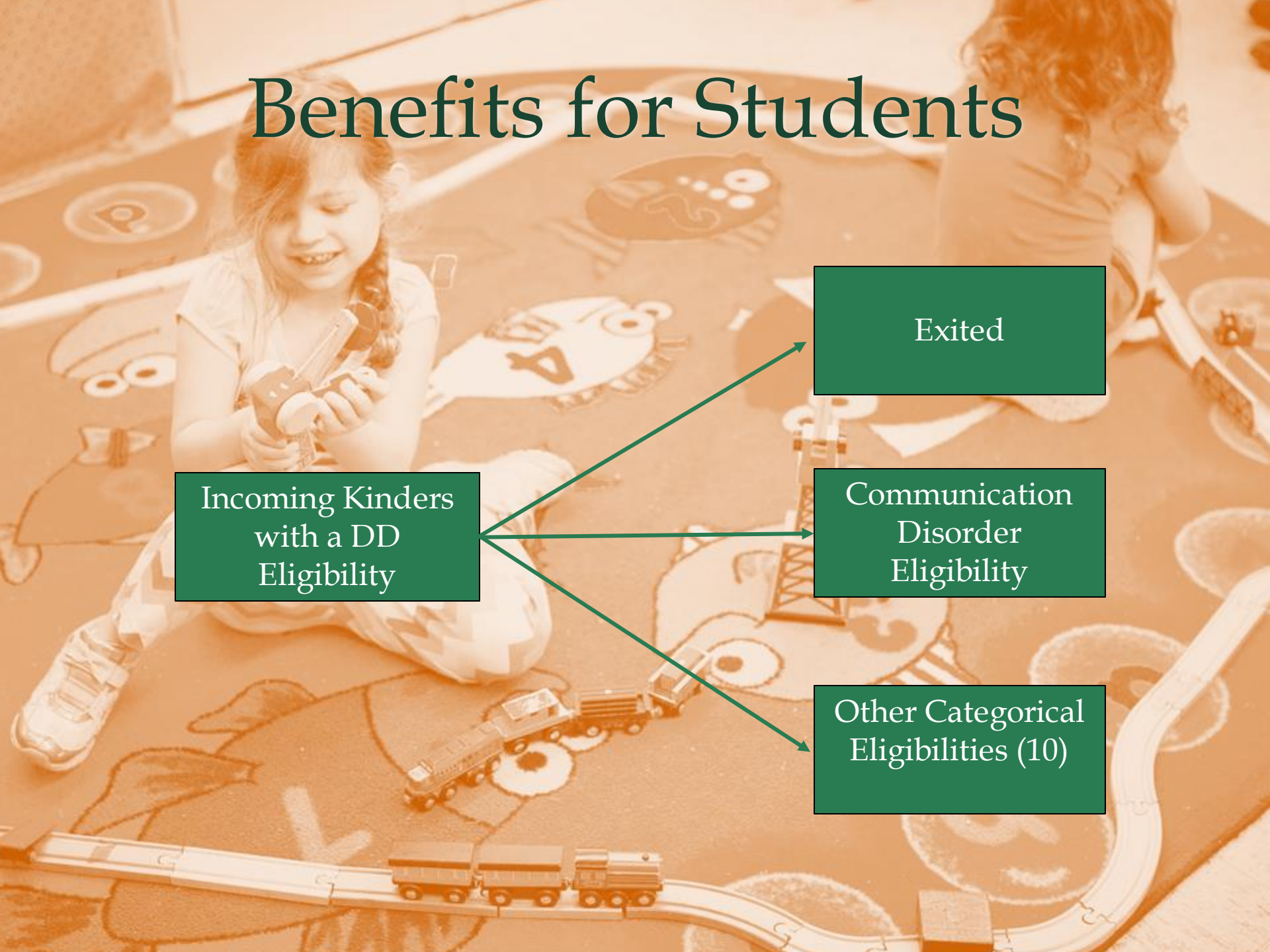
Benefits for Students

Incoming Kinders
with a DD
Eligibility

Exited

Communication
Disorder
Eligibility

Other Categorical
Eligibilities (10)



Benefits for Students

Extending the Developmental Delay Eligibility offers a 4th choice that insures continuous services in all needed areas.

- **CD Eligibility:** academic areas are often not added until the end of 1st grade.
- **Exit Status:** students are often identified later in the primary years and miss needed supports.
- **Categorical Eligibilities:** Criteria for some eligibilities cannot be reliably met until several years of school have occurred.

Benefits for Students

Big Idea

School Districts have an opportunity to collect information on important variables such as student strengths, learning rate, social-emotional challenges and academic needs over time. By Third Grade, such information leads to a descriptive categorical eligibility that meets state criteria.

Benefits for Parents

Unknowns for parents of entering Kinders: new building, different staff, new system

+

Unknowns for parents of entering Kinders with a special education eligibility: new forms, more new staff, different service delivery

+

Unknowns for parents of entering Kinders with a DD eligibility: additional assessments, more meetings, high uncertainty



Benefits for Parents (cont.)

Big Idea

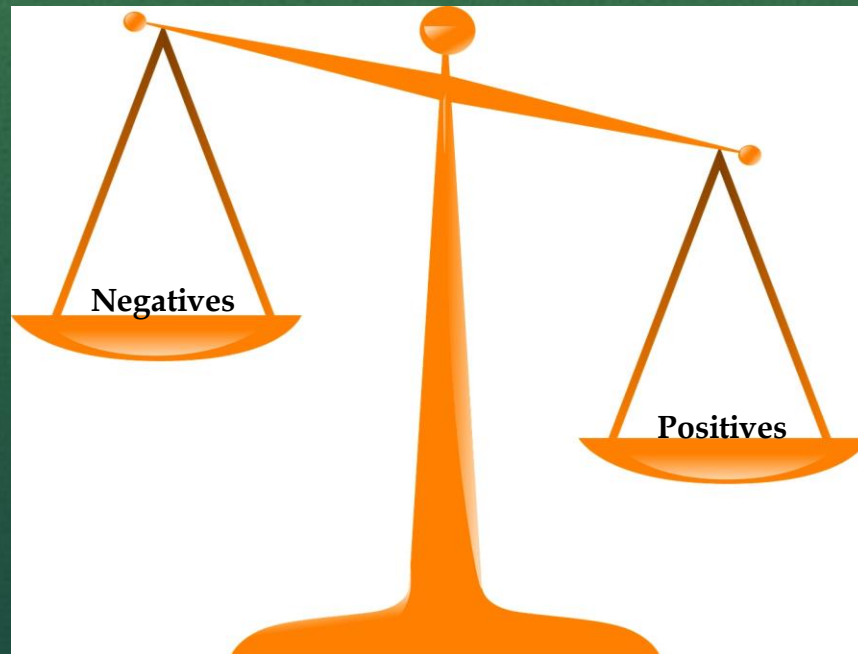
Extending the DD eligibility reduces the number of barriers parents encounter and allows parents and staff to develop a more collaborative and trusting relationship .

Negligible Impact on SDs

- Cost of purchasing additional age-appropriate assessments
- Review of systems delivery at the local level:
 - Exit criteria, role of SLPs, delivery of tiered instruction
- Monitor number of students for three years to determine longitudinal effects

Final Big Idea

Positives significantly outweigh the negatives





Questions?