



**State Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention and Early  
Childhood Special Education Programs in Oregon**

255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310

February 7, 2018

Representative John Lively  
Chair, House Committee on Early Childhood and Family Supports  
900 Court St NE H-488  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairman Lively:

The State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) is charged with advising and assisting public agencies regarding services to preschool children with disabilities, and providing public comment on any proposed rules affecting that population. We would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed ruling to extend the Developmental Delay eligibility through the third grade.

The SICC is composed of a variety of stakeholders, including Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) providers, early learning providers, parents, health organizations, mental health, child care, advocacy organizations, and others.

Children in ECSE are frequently eligible under the category of Developmental Delay. This category is not currently recognized in Oregon as an eligibility category for K-12 special education. Some children in Oregon lose their special education services upon transition to kindergarten, not because of a change in their special needs or delays, but because they are not able to be identified under a school age eligibility category. These children often struggle and demonstrate a lack of success before they are considered for services again, sometimes not until third grade.

The SICC has heard many examples from our stakeholder groups of how this creates challenges for children transitioning to kindergarten. Children are left without appropriate supports, and fall further and further behind their peers before receiving the interventions and accommodations they need.

Transition to kindergarten is a critical time for children. Providing a continuity of eligibility can help set children up for success and support schools to provide appropriate interventions from the day children enter kindergarten.

The SICC recommends that the Legislature approve the proposal to extend the Developmental Delay eligibility category through the third grade. Based on the information we have reviewed, we believe this change will better support Oregon's schools in meeting children's needs, and set children up for success in meeting third grade benchmarks and beyond.

On behalf of the SICC, I want to thank you for your support of Oregon's children at risk.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McMullen  
Chair, State Interagency Coordinating Council