



EARLY LEARNING
MULTNOMAH

February 11, 2019

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to you in support of an important piece of the early childhood care and education system that is often misunderstood because it is largely unseen.

I direct the state's early learning hub in Multnomah county. It is our responsibility to build an early learning system that is free from bias and gives every child what they need to learn and grow. This requires us to ensure that children and families get the supports and services that they need, when they need them. In our area children who experience "low incidence" disabilities such as blindness receive essential education services through the Columbia Regional Program. These Low Incidence Disability Regional Programs across the state are funded outside of the budgets for K12 education budget and early childhood special education. The paragraphs that follow explain the work of the Regional Programs and the impact of funding reductions on their ability to ensure that every child is prepared for school success.

Regional Programs serve children in early intervention, early childhood special education, and school age through transition and post high school services. Regional Programs serve and support our children who experience blindness, deafness, deaf blindness, orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorder, and traumatic brain injury. For all children and families, but especially those who live in smaller districts and those away from population centers, the economy of scale Regional Programs brings often makes the difference for these children and their access to education in their local community and neighborhood school.

We respectfully request your support to fund Low Incidence Disability Regional Programs at \$43 million for the 2019-2021 biennium. The current projections of funding reduction in 2019-2021 will result in the loss of essential services that help ensure our children with low incidence disabilities have equal access to high quality education in Oregon. This loss will be devastating for districts, student and families who rely on direct instruction from regional staff as well as our district staff who rely on Regional Programs for their expertise, coaching, building capacity, and specialized equipment and technology. There is simply no alternative to Regional Program services in our state, they are the sole



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providers of these critical services for districts who hold the responsibility to serve all children.

Columbia Regional Program, serving 3500 of our students with low incidence disabilities, has lost service supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a **34% increase in students eligible** for services. Due to funding shortfalls, core services provided to districts who serve students with low incidence disabilities by Columbia Regional Program have been reduced or eliminated resulting in less services provided to districts and the impact is to our most vulnerable students.

It is imperative for the State to remedy this **multi-year funding shortfall** for Low Incidence Regional Programs. We are respectfully requesting the Oregon Legislature to support a \$43 million funding request for Low Incidence Regional Programs for the 2019-2021 biennium in efforts to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities and ensure districts are able to fulfill their obligation to educate every child.

Thank you for carefully considering this investment in an education system that supports the success of every child.

Molly Day
Early Learning Director, Early Learning Multnomah
mollyd@unitedway-pdx.org
971.409.7314

November 30, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

The Regional Advisory Council for Cascade Regional Program is reaching out to you, requesting your support to restore special education funding for the *state's Regional Program to \$43.5 million*, so that the projected *10,562 students* statewide, from age birth to 21 will have the opportunity to achieve success through equitable access and specialized support.

Oregon Department of Education's Regional Program, serving students with low incidence disabilities (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deafblind, Orthopedically Impaired, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) have lost service supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a *34% increase in students eligible* for services. Due to funding shortfalls, the core services provided to students with low incidence disabilities by the Regional Program has been *modified, reduced or eliminated*, resulting in a strain on local school districts and EI/ECSE programs.

The projected \$29 million for the 2019-2021 biennium will *not* be sufficient in restoring service levels to our area of approximately 1,000 regionally eligible students and the over 10,000 students statewide. Our students from birth to 21 who are eligible for Regional Program services, need funding restored and adjusted for inflation and student growth, so that they will receive the needed specialized support to achieve educational outcomes.

It is imperative for the state Regional Program to remedy this *multi-year funding shortfall*. We are respectfully requesting the Oregon Legislature to support a \$43.5 million funding request for Regional Programs for the 2019-2021 biennium in efforts to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities.

Sincerely,

Name	District/Title	Signature
Bryan Mattingly	Greene Albany Special Program Dir.	
Kathleen Walker	Monroe School District Special Education Director	
Bryan Starr	Harrisburg SD, Special Education Director	
Stefanie Gould	Lincoln County SD Special Programs Admin	
Ann Lavord	LBL Program Administrator	
Marc Threlman	Alsea Superintendent, Sped. Director	
Jan Sanson	Hebanon - Director Sped	
Therese Hobbs	Sweet Home SD, Director of Student Services	
Autumn Bellari	LBL - EI/ECSE Program Admin	
Don Dorman	LBL Assistant Superintendent	
Brian Gardner	Central Linn	
Greg Nolan	Scio / Sped Director	

October 19, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

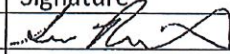

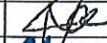

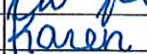

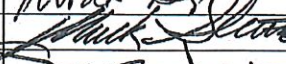
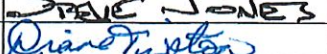



The Special Education Directors in our region are reaching out to you, requesting your support to restore special education funding for the **state's Regional Program to \$43 million**, so that the projected **10,562 students** statewide, from age birth to 21 will have the opportunity to achieve success through equitable access and specialized support.

Regional Program, serving students with low incidence disabilities (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deaf/blind, Orthopedically Impaired, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) has lost service supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a **34% increase in students eligible** for services. Due to funding shortfalls, the core services provided to students with low incidence disabilities by Regional Program has been **modified, reduced or eliminated**, resulting in a strain on local school districts and EI/ECSE programs.

The projected \$29 million for the 2019-2021 biennium will **not** be sufficient in restoring service levels to our area of 600 regionally eligible students and the over 10,000 students statewide. Our students from birth to 21 who are eligible for Regional Program services, need funding restored and adjusted for inflation and student growth, so that they will receive the needed specialized support to achieve educational outcomes.

It is imperative for the state Regional Program to remedy this **multi-year funding shortfall**. We are respectfully requesting the Oregon Legislature to support a \$43 million funding request for Regional Programs for the 2019-2021 biennium in efforts to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities.

Sincerely,

Name	District	Signature
Sean Reinhart, Director of Special Education	Bend/LaPine School District	
Colleen Funderburg, Asst. Director of Special Education	Bend/LaPine School District	
Josh Marks, Asst. Director of Special Education	Bend/LaPine School District	
Martha Hinman, Executive Director	Redmond School District	
Kira Fee, Asst. Director of Special Education	Redmond School District	
Karen Jordan, Asst. Director of Special Education	Redmond School District	
Mona Boyd, Director of Special Education	Crook County School District	
Mark Stewart, Director of Special Education	Sisters School District	
Steve Jones, Director of Special Education	Harney County	
Diane Tipton, EI/ECSE Director	High Desert ESD	
Sandra Bishop, Director of Special Education	High Desert ESD	

December 14, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature

The Special Education Directors of Southern Oregon are reaching out to you, requesting your support to fund the **state's Regional Program at \$43.5 Million**, so that the projected **10,562 students** statewide (1,500 in Southern Oregon), age birth to 21, with low-incidence disabilities, will have the opportunity to achieve success through equitable access and specialized support.

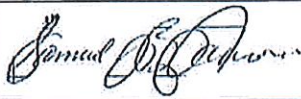
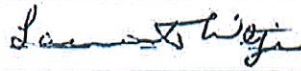
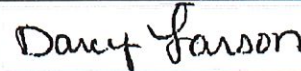



Regional Program, serving students with low incidence disabilities (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deaf/blind, Orthopedically Impaired, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) has **lost 36% of state-level funding** over the past eleven years, despite of a **34% increase in regional student count** (in Southern Oregon our regional Autism count has gone up 92% since 2007). Due to the funding shortfalls, and the ever-increasing regional student caseloads, some **core regional services had to be modified, reduced or eliminated**, resulting in a **financial strain on local school districts and EI/ECSE programs**. Children with Autism and Orthopedic Impairment lost the opportunity to receive direct services from highly skilled regional Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapist and Autism Specialists: school districts and early intervention programs are struggling to backfill the loss of specialized regional service time and expertise from their own limited resources, and are often left to their own devices to identify and deal with very complex and intense cases.

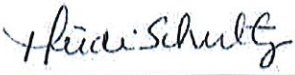

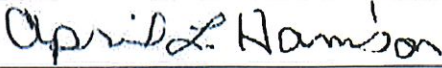

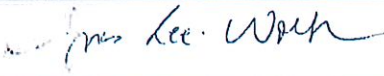


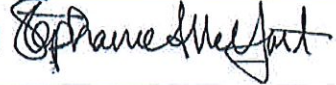
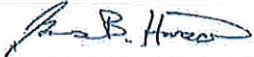


The projected \$ 22.5 Million state-level regional funding **not** be sufficient in restoring service levels to our area of 1,500 regionally eligible students and the over 10,000 students statewide. In order to assure successful student outcomes, our early intervention programs and schools need regional service levels and funding to be restored and reasonably adjusted, reflecting inflation and student population increase over the past 11 years.

It is imperative for the state Regional Program to remedy this **multi-year funding shortfall**. We are respectfully requesting the Oregon Legislature to support a \$43.5 Million funding request for the Regional Program for the 2019-2021 biennium in efforts to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities.

Sincerely,

Southern Oregon Special Education Directors

Name	District	Signature
Samuel Bogdanove, Director	Ashland	
Larry Wetjen, SpEd Teacher/Director	Butte Falls Charter School	
Shirley Stinson and Darcy Larson, Coordinators	Jackson County EI/ECSE	
Megan Stevens, Coordinator	Josephine County EI/ECSE	
Dena Haudenschild, Supervisor	Klamath County EI/ECSE	
Laura Blair, Director	Klamath County SD	

Heidi Schultz, Director	Klamath Falls City	
Tania Tong, Director	Medford	
April Harrison, Director	Rogue River	
Dale Balme, Coordinator	Southern Oregon ESD	
Agnes Lee-Wolfe, Coordinator	Southern Oregon ESD	
Mark Moskowitz, Coordinator	Southern Oregon ESD	
Susan Peck, Director	Southern Oregon ESD	
Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director	Three Rivers	
Brian Hinson, Director	Douglas ESD	
Rick Burton, Director	Roseburg	
Jack Thompson, Superintendent	Lake ESD	



Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

Oregon school districts have the honor of serving the educational needs of thousands of children with low incidence disabilities and rely on Regional Programs for critically important educational services. Regional Programs serve children in early intervention, early childhood special education, and school age through transition and post high school services. Regional Programs serve and support our children who experience blindness, deafness, deaf blindness, orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorder, and traumatic brain injury. For all school districts, but especially smaller districts and those away from population centers, the economy of scale the Regional Programs brings often makes the difference for these children and their access to education in their local community and their neighborhood school.

We respectfully request your support to fund Low Incidence Disability Regional Programs at \$43 million for the 2019-2021 biennium. The currently projections of funding reduction in 2019-2021 will result in the loss of essential services that help ensure our children with low incidence disabilities have equal access to high quality education in Oregon. This loss will be devastating for districts, student and families who rely on direct instruction from regional staff as well as our district staff who rely on regional programs for their expertise, coaching, building capacity, and specialized equipment and technology. There is simply no alternative to regional program services in our state, they are the sole providers of these critical services for districts who hold the responsibility to serve all children.

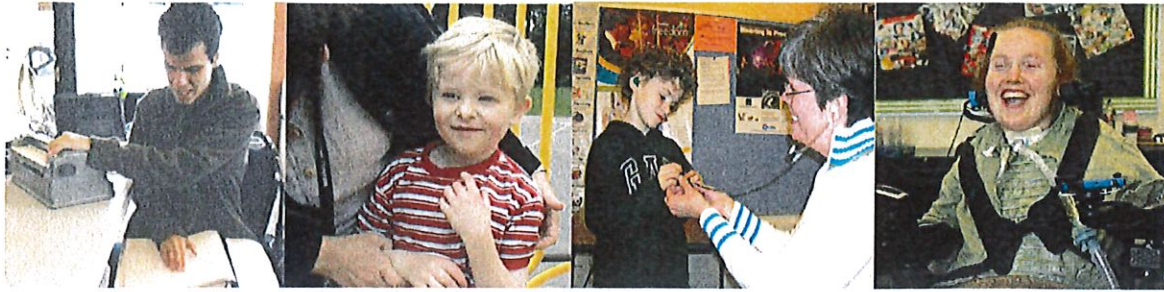
Columbia Regional Program, serving 3500 of our students with low incidence disabilities, has lost service supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a **34% increase in students eligible** for services. Due to funding shortfalls, core services provided to districts who serve students with low incidence disabilities by Columbia Regional Program have been reduced or eliminated resulting in less services provided to districts and the impact is to our most vulnerable students.

It is imperative for the State to remedy this **multi-year funding shortfall** for Low Incidence Regional Programs. We are respectfully requesting the Oregon Legislature to support a \$43 million funding request for Low Incidence Regional Programs for the 2019-2021 biennium in efforts to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities and ensure districts are able to fulfill their obligation to educate every child.

Anne Cole
Director of Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education
Hood River County School District



Signature



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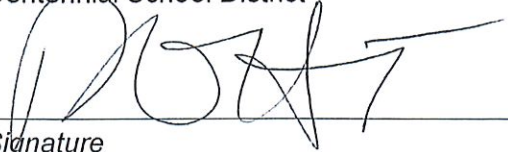
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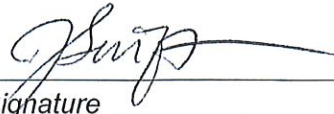
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Denise Wright
Director of Student Services
Centennial School District



Signature

Jeanne Swift
Director of Student Services
Corbett School District



Signature

Mary Pearson
Director of Student Services
David Douglas School District




Signature

John Koch
Executive Director of Student Support
Services
Gresham-Barlow School District



Signature

Lisa Grotting
Director of EI/ECSE
David Douglas School District



Signature

Todd Greaves
Director of Student Services
Multnomah Education Service District



Signature

Michelle Markle
Director of Student Services
Parkrose School District



Signature

Mary Mertz
Senior Director Special Education
Portland Public School District



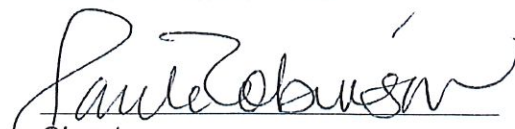
Signature

Michelle Murer
Executive Director of Student Services
Reynolds School District



Signature

Paula Robinson
High School Principal
Riverdale School District



Signature



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Loretta Manning
Director of Student Services
Canby School District




Signature

Carol Moore
EI/ECSE Director
Clackamas Education Service District



Signature

Linda Eastlund
Director of Special Education
Clackamas Education Service District



Signature

Kelly Welch
Director of Special Services
Gladstone School District



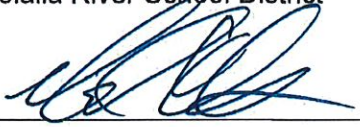
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Jason Hobson
Director of Student Services
Estacada School District



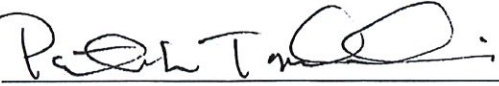
Signature

Michael Salitore
Director of Supported Education
Molalla River School District



Signature

Patrick Tomblin
Executive Director of Special Services
Lake Oswego School District



Signature

Cyndi Panko
Director of Special Services
Oregon City School District



Signature

Vivian Garrison
Director of Special Education
North Clackamas School District



Signature

Jennifer Spencer-Iiams
Assistant Superintendent
West Linn-Wilsonville School District



Signature

Katie Schweitzer
Student Services Director
Oregon Trail School District



Signature