



December 20, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

The School District Superintendents in our region are reaching out to you to request your support to restore special education funding for the **state's Regional Program to \$43.5 million**. Regional Programs serve students with low incidence disabilities (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deaf/blind, Orthopedically Impaired, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) and have had to decrease service and supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a **34% increase in students eligible** (projected **10,562 students** statewide) for service.

The projected \$22.5 million for the 2019-2021 biennium is a more than **\$6 million cut** from the current biennium, which will **not** be sufficient in restoring service levels to our area of 632 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.

Due to funding shortfalls, the core services provided to students with low incidence disabilities by Regional Program have been **modified, reduced or eliminated**, resulting in a **cost shift** and strain on local school districts and EI/ECSE programs.

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	Signature
Shay Mikalson, Superintendent	Bend-La Pine School District	
Mike McIntosh, Superintendent	Redmond School District	
Dr. Sara E. Johnson, Superintendent	Crook County School District	
Curtiss Scholl, Superintendent	Sisters School District	
Stefanie Garber, Superintendent	Culver School District	
Ken Parshall, Superintendent	Jefferson School District	
Dr. Paul Andrews, Superintendent	High Desert ESD	

November 16, 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 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, Deaf/blind, 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 over a 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 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,

Valley Coast Superintendents Association

Name	District	Signature
Bryan Sterr	Harrisburg SD	Bryan Sterr
Gary Tempel	Scio SD	Gary Tempel
Bill Crowson	Monroe SD	Bill Crowson
Bo Yates	Lebanon SD	Bo Yates
Marc Thielman	Alsea SD	Marc Thielman
J. Tim Moss	Greater Albany Public Schools	J. Tim Moss
Ryan Moss	Corvallis School District	Ryan Moss
Karen Gray	Lincoln Co S.D.	Karen Gray
Melissa Goff	Phibmath S.D.	Melissa Goff
Tom Yabraes	Sweet Home S.D.	Tom Yabraes
Brian Carbuert	Central Linn	Brian Carbuert
Jim Everett	LBL ESD	Jim Everett

January 28, 2019

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301

SUBJECT: Grant in Aid Funding for Special Education

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Superintendents of Southern Oregon school districts are requesting your support for critical Special Education Services that are slated for funding reductions in the Governor's proposed Grant in Aid budget. These proposed reductions include the **state's Regional Programs** that serves the projected **10,562 students** statewide (1,500 in Southern Oregon) ages birth to 21 with low-incidence disabilities, as well as **Long Term Care and Treatment Program (LTCT)**, and funding for **Blind and Visually Impaired Students (BVIS)**.

Regional Programs provide the opportunity for students to achieve success through equitable access and specialized support serving students with low incidence disabilities (Autism, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Deafblind, Orthopedically Impaired, Traumatic Brain Injury, Visually Impaired). Over the past 11 years, Regional Programs has **lost 28.5% of state-level funding**, despite a **34% increase in the number of students in the regional student count**. In Southern Oregon our Regional Autism count alone has gone up 92% since 2007.

Due to funding shortfalls and the ever-increasing student caseloads, some **essential Regional Services have had to be modified, reduced or eliminated**, resulting in a **financial strain on local school districts and Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education programs**. As an example, 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 service time and expertise from Regional Programs using their own limited resources, and are often left to identify and address very complex and intense cases with reduced Regional Service supports.

The \$22.5 million of state-level funding in the Governor's Grant in Aid budget for Regional Programs is a reduction from the previous biennium's funding level of \$26.7 million, and is **not** determined to be sufficient in restoring service levels to the approximate 1,500 regionally eligible students in southern Oregon 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 to reflect inflation and student population increases over the past 11 years.

It is imperative for the state to **remedy this multi-year funding shortfall for Regional Programs**. We respectfully request the **Oregon Legislature support a \$43.5 million funding request for Regional Programs** during the 2019-21 biennium to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities. We also ask that the legislature at least **maintain current service levels for other special education programs including LTCT and BVIS, without reducing other education funding** proposed by the Governor.


Sincerely,



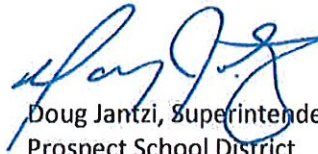
Phil Long, Superintendent
Butte Falls School District



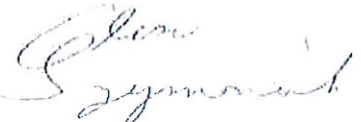
Holly Amann, District Administrator
Pinehurst School District



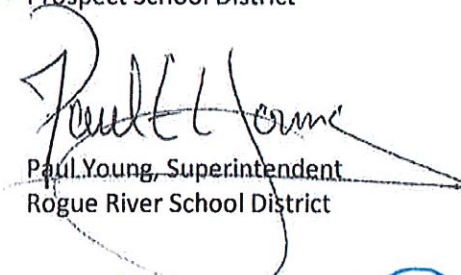
Kirk Kolb, Superintendent
Grants Pass School District



Doug Jantzi, Superintendent
Prospect School District



Glen Szymoniak, Superintendent
Klamath County School District



Paul Young, Superintendent
Rogue River School District



Paul Hillyer, Superintendent
Klamath Falls City Schools



Scott Beveridge, Superintendent
Southern Oregon ESD



Brian Shumate, Superintendent
Medford School District



Dave Valenzuela, Superintendent
Three Rivers School District



February 7, 2019

Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Grant In Aid Funding for Special Education

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Special Education Directors in Marion, Polk and Yamhill School Districts are requesting your support for critical Special Education Services that are slated for funding reductions in the Governor's proposed Grant In Aid budget. These proposed reductions include the state of Oregon's Regional Programs that serve Low Incidence, High Cost Students. Within the state, there are 10,348 students receiving these services (1400 in our three-county region) ages birth to 21 with low-incidence disabilities.

Regional Programs provide the opportunity for students to achieve success through equitable access and specialized support for students with low incidence disabilities (Autism, Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Blind or Visually Impaired, Deafblind, Orthopedically Impaired and Traumatic Brain Injury). These students are within our school districts and served by the Regional Program staff. The Regional Program staff work collaboratively with our staff helping to meet the unique needs of their disability. Over the past 12 years, Regional Programs have seen a decrease of 31.8% in State General Funding and a 53.4% decrease per/student in State General funding, despite a 34% increase in the number of students in the regional student count.

Due to funding shortfalls and the ever-increasing student caseloads, some essential Regional Service have had to be modified, reduced or eliminated, resulting in a financial strain on local school districts and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education programs. With this additional shortfall, regional programs anticipate having to lay off staff and increase caseloads of the staff that remain. Across Oregon, this reduction is likely to result in a loss of over 40 FTE in specialized staff that includes: Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Autism Specialists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Traumatic Brain Injury Consultants.

In addition to a reduction or elimination of specialized staff, programs also project reductions to or elimination of direct instruction time for students as well as specialized equipment. School districts and EI/ECSE programs will be responsible to fill the gap in services from regional programs to provide a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) for students with low incidence disabilities. These are not staff that districts employ, nor are they duplicated services.


The \$22.5 million of state-level funding in the Governor's Grant in Aid budget for Regional Programs is a reduction from the previous biennium's funding level of \$26.7 million, and is not determined to be sufficient in restoring service levels to the approximate 1,400 regionally eligible students in Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties 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 to reflect inflation and student population increases over the past 12 years.

Dave Novotney, Ph.D.
Superintendent

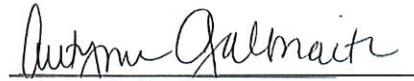
It is imperative for the state to remedy this multi-year funding shortfall for Regional Programs. We respectfully request the Oregon Legislature support a \$43.5 million funding request for Regional Programs during the 2019-21 biennium to restore critical service supports to our students with low incidence disabilities.

Sincerely,

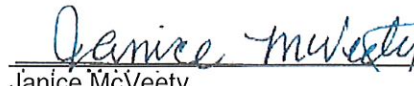

Todd Butterfield
Amity School District


Kevin Carroll
Cascade School District

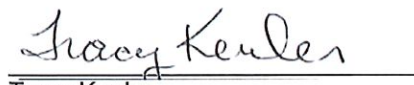
Julia Heilman
Central School District


Autymn Galbraith
Dallas School District


Stephanie Ewing
Dayton School District

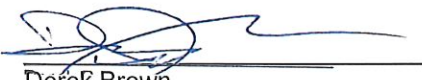

Janice McVeety
Falls City School District


Ann O'Connell
Gervais School District

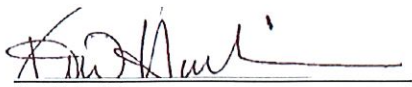

Tracy Keuler
Jefferson School District


Mike Franklin
McMinville School District


Erica Gordon
Mt. Angel School District

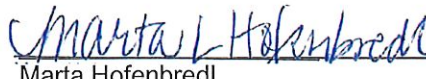

Derek Brown
Newberg School District

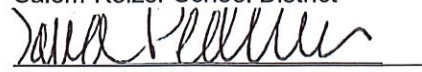

Patrick McArthur
North Marion School District



Jeri Harbison
North Santiam School District


Erin Henery
Perrydale School District



Brian Hillsabeck
Salem-Keizer School District


Marta Hofenbredl
Sheridan School District


Dana Pederson
Silver Falls School District

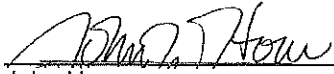

Joe Wehri
St. Paul School District


Carrie Zimbrick


Dana Christie

Willamina School District

Woodburn School District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Horne", written over a horizontal line.

John Horne
Yamhill-Carlton School District



Colton School District 53
30429 S Grays Hill Rd
Colton, OR 97017
Ph 503.824.3535
Fax 503.824.3530
www.colton.k12.or.us

Dr. Koreen Barreras-Brown, Superintendent

2/15/19

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

The School District Superintendents in our region are reaching out to you to request your support to restore special education funding for the *state's Regional Program to \$43.5 million*. Regional Programs serve students with low incidence disabilities (i.e. Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Visually Impaired, Deaf/blind, Orthopedically Impaired, Autism and Traumatic Brain Injury) and have had to decrease service and supports over the past eleven years due to state-level funding shortfalls, despite a *34% increase in students eligible* (projected *10,562 students* statewide) for service.

The projected \$22.5 million for the 2019-2021 biennium is a more than *\$6 million cut* from the current biennium, which will *not* be sufficient in restoring service levels to our area of 1564 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.

Due to funding shortfalls, the core services provided to students with low incidence disabilities by Regional Programs have been *modified, reduced or eliminated*, resulting in a *cost shift* and strain on local school districts and EI/ECSE programs.

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,

Dr. Koreen N. Barreras-Brown
Superintendent
Colton School District

Signature