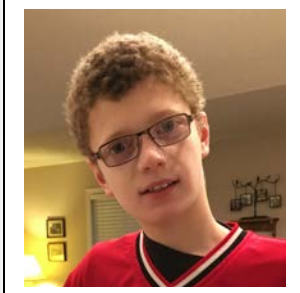


Drew Pedersen



Our vision for Drew is to have a life full of meaningful experiences. He is becoming increasingly curious about the world around him and we want to be able to support his curiosity.

This is our son, Drew Pedersen. He is a happy and successful 8th grade student at Straub Middle School in the Salem-Keizer School district. Drew has orthopedic, medical and vision disabilities. He has been receiving Regional services through Willamette Educational Services District (WESD) such as; Occupational, Physical and Vision therapies for the past 13 years. Drew has been fortunate to receive these Regional services from very competent and caring professionals throughout his life. Drew's individualized special education plan relies on coordination of academic and Regional services in order for him to be appropriately supported and succeed. Regional services allow him an avenue and support in the independent skills that he needs to grow into a productive member of his community. The hours regional professionals have dedicated to planning, providing professional development to his teachers and support staff, delivering and executing services for Drew have been and continue to be priceless to his development, his education, his future and to our family. A reduction in these services or his ability to access their supports would be shameful.

As Drew's parents and biggest fans, we would like to see Drew continue to develop his functional, mobility, readiness and communication skills. These services and many of the opportunities to generalize these skills come from his school setting and the support of the professionals at WESD that provide him Regional services. Any reduction in these services will hinder his continued curiosity and growth in his increasing independence.

Both my husband and I are administrators for local school districts. We see firsthand the positive and life-changing work Regional programs provide some of our most vulnerable and most deserving students. If the state values equity for all students and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education want to support Governor Brown in this goal, you will not decrease funding for Regional services, and support districts such as WESD. We would love to speak with you in person about this issue if the opportunity arises.

Dana & Dale Pedersen

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