



March 30, 2021

Honorable Members of the Oregon Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-303
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon State Senate,

Special Education Directors in Crook, Deschutes, Harney, and Jefferson Counties respectfully request an additional \$10 million be budgeted from the General Fund for the 2021-23 biennium to support Regional Inclusive Services (RIS). This request would address the funding shortfall 20% funding shortfall RIS has endured since 2007 and begin to restore services to the 2009 level.

It is imperative for the state to remedy this shortfall and ensure our students who experience low incidence disabilities receive adequate services. As a result of the funding decrease, critical services for the students and families we serve have been reduced or eliminated from many programs.

In Central Oregon, our proportionate share of the \$10 million request would specifically increase services for our students with orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorder, deaf-blindness, and vision impairment. At this time, our students who experience the disabilities referred to above are not receiving the level of direct support they need from highly specialized educators in order to make adequate educational progress. Students with complex disabilities need specialized educators to address unique needs and support equitable access to highly qualified professionals and meet the unique needs of students who experience disabilities.

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's Regional Inclusive Services.



Central Oregon Regional Inclusive Services (CoRis) Committee Members:

Name	District	Signature
Sean Reinhart, Executive Director of Special Programs	Bend/La Pine Schools	<i>Sean Reinhart</i>
Mona Boyd, Director of Special Education	Crook County School District	<i>Mona Boyd</i>
Amy Joynt, Ex. Director of Special Programs	High Desert Education Service District	<i>Amy Joynt</i>
Diane Tipton, Ex. Director of EI/ECSE	High Desert Education Service District	<i>Diane Tipton</i>
Kira Fee, Director of Special Education	Jefferson County SD, 509J	<i>Kira Fee</i>
Karen Jordan, Director of Special Education	Redmond School District	
Martha Hinman, Director of Special Education	Sisters School District	<i>Martha Hinman</i> - via email

Signature:

Email: karen.jordan@redmondschools.org

