



# Regional Inclusive Services

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Kara Williams, Director of Inclusive Services

Tenneal Wetherell, Chief of Staff

# Regional Inclusive Services

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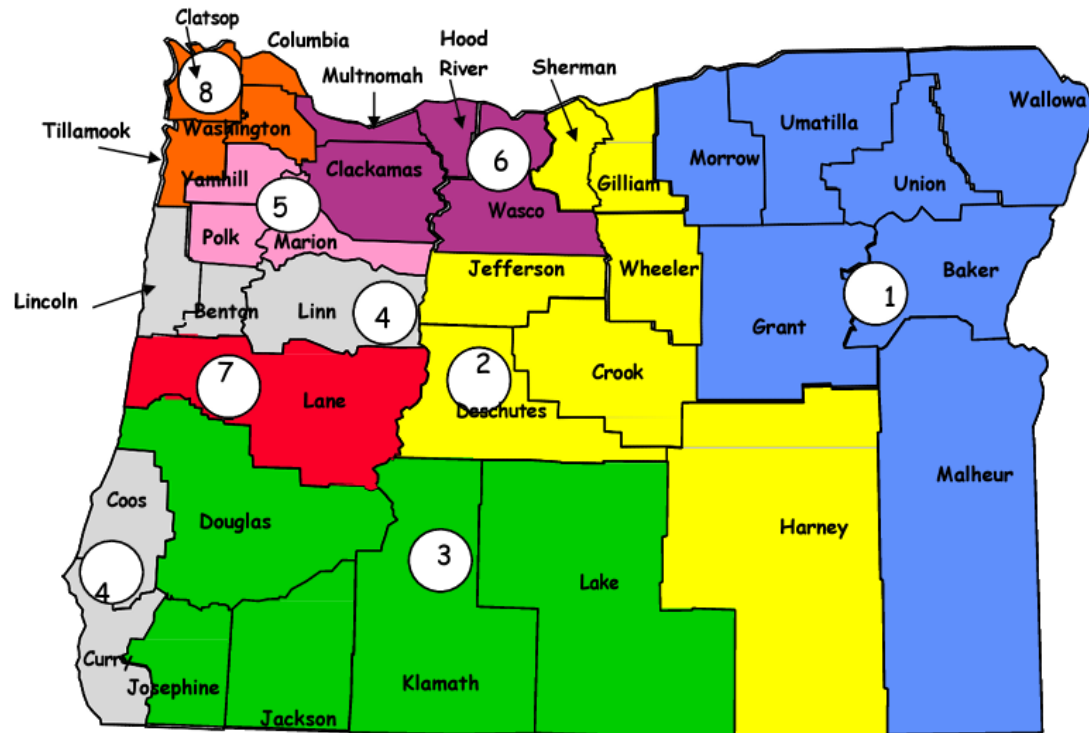
Regional Inclusive Services provide specialized developmental and educational support for infants, toddlers, children and students, ages birth-21, who experience low-incidence disabilities.

Low-incidence disabilities are deaf or hard of hearing, visual impairment, autism spectrum disorder, orthopedic impairment, deafblindness, and traumatic brain injury.

Low-incidence disabilities occur in the general population at such a low rate that it is difficult for individual districts to employ specialized staff and provide a full range of related services needed for these students.

Providing these services on a regional basis is both cost effective and assures that the students receive programs and services from qualified staff related to their specific needs.

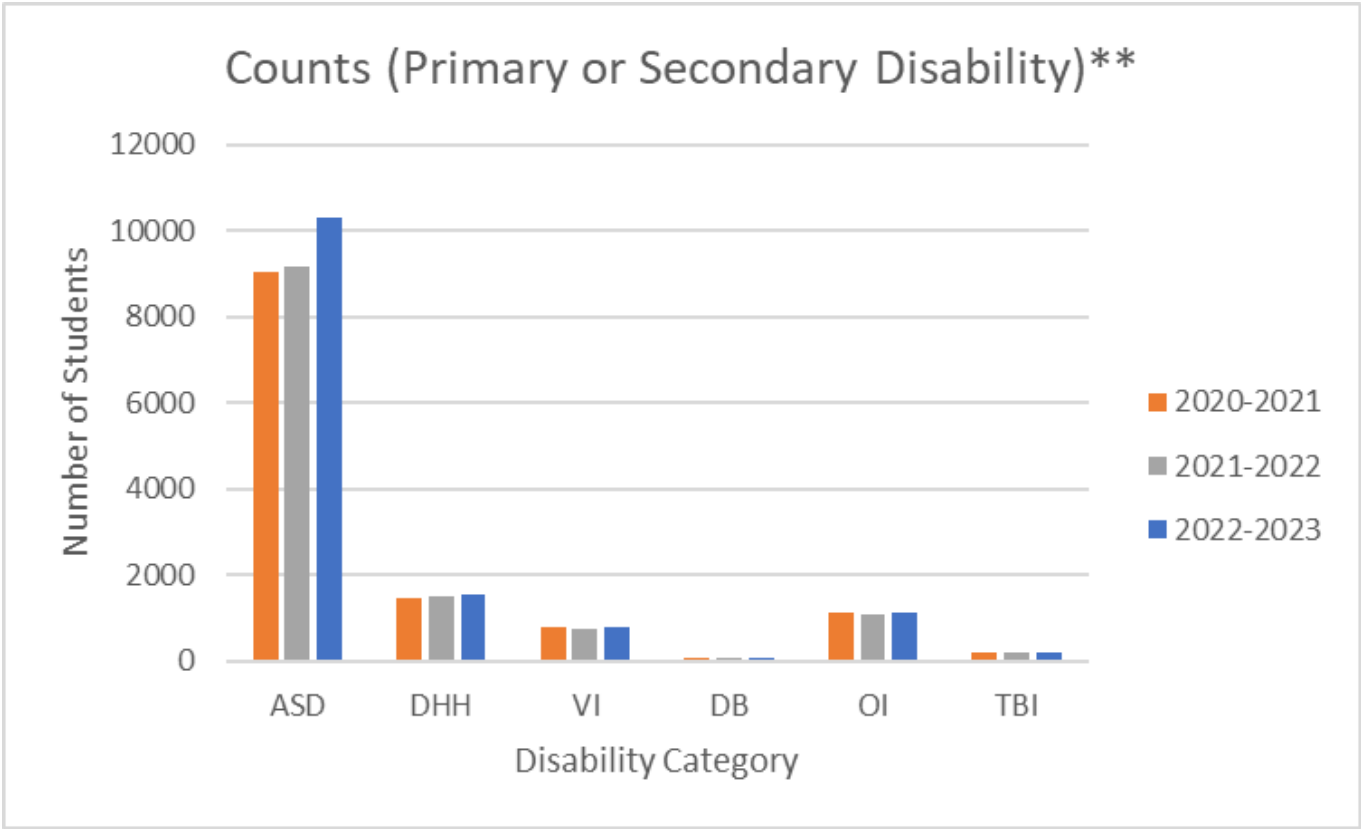
# Regional Inclusive Service Providers



- Region 1: Intermountain ESD
- Region 2: High Desert ESD
- Region 3: Southern Oregon ESD
- Region 4: Linn Benton Lincoln ESD
- Region 5: Willamette ESD
- Region 6: Portland Public Schools
- Region 7: Lane ESD
- Region 8: Northwest Regional ESD

# Number of Students Served by Regional Inclusive Services

Year	Number of Students
2022-23	13,342
2021-22	12,147
2020-21	12,013



Data Source: December Child Count

\*\*Counts are primary or secondary disability so a student may be counted in more than one disability category.

# Services and Supports Provided

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- Specially designed instruction in academic areas
- Specialized equipment
- Parent supports
- Braille (access and creation)
- Language development
- Sign language
- Orientation and mobility
- Use of technology for communication
- Independent living skills
- Play and social skills
- Behavioral supports
- Low vision services
- Assistive technology
- Transition services
- Audiology supports
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Consultation and training are provided to local education staff and parents to assist teams to implement the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

# Senate Bill 53

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In 2021, the legislature passed SB 53 which required ODE to conduct a study on Regional Inclusive Services programs provided on a local, county or regional basis. The study required that ODE address:

- How special education currently is provided on a local, county or regional basis;
- Changes in law or practice that would improve how special education is provided on a local, county or regional basis; and
- Efficient and effective funding methods for providing special education on a local, county or regional basis.

(2) The department shall report the [results of the study](#) to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than April 1, 2022.

# Senate Bill 53 Recommendations

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## **Eligibility:**

- Develop a method for determining regionally-eligible children and students that addresses the funding barriers identified in the report

## **Service Provision:**

- Provide a common framework for service delivery to be used throughout the state to ensure that all children and students experiencing low-incidence disability have similar opportunity and access to services and supports statewide.

## **Staffing:**

- Partner with state agencies and school districts to identify mechanisms to address the staffing needs of educators who provide services to children and students with low-incidence disabilities.

## **Funding:**

- Establish a funding formula and revenue stream that provides adequate and stable funding for the state's most vulnerable children and students who experience low-incidence disabilities.

# Progress on Recommendations

## Eligibility

- Reviewed categories included in the contract program
- Identified the need for technical assistance in the field with submission and coding of eligible students
- ODE with Regional Management Team (RMT) will develop a guidance document and on-going training plan for districts

## Service Provision

- Reviewed the core services provided by the contract
- Developed a new RFP for 25-27 to address service refined service provision requirements and updated outcome goals

## Staffing

- Identified staffing concerns in remote, rural and urban settings
- Partner with TSPC and EAC to identify staffing pipeline barriers and potential solutions

## Funding

- Convened a workgroup to develop a sustainable funding formula
- The workgroup has made a recommendation for a long-term funding method that would adequately and reliably meet the needs of students.



# Biennial Funding Issue

- There is not enough GF in each biennium to sufficiently fund the RIS Program
- For years State IDEA set aside has been backfilling the program between 6M-9M
- Still the program continues to struggle to keep up with adequate service level
- Each biennium, ODE submits a POP to attempt to increase funding but has been unsuccessful

Biennium	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23
General Funds	\$31,440,251.00	\$29,430,570.00	\$25,828,518.00	\$25,919,434.00	\$26,691,957.00	\$27,702,682.00	\$28,731,383.00	\$29,966,831.00
Federal Funds	\$29,098,484.00	\$32,637,929.61	\$35,191,716.00	\$34,019,095.00	\$31,317,990.00	\$34,215,268.00	\$33,367,746.00	\$39,281,325.00
Total Funds	\$60,538,735.00	\$62,068,499.61	\$61,020,234.00	\$59,938,529.00	\$58,009,947.00	\$61,917,950.00	\$62,099,129.00	\$69,248,156.00*
Census Count	17,274	18,576	18,161	18,458	19,717	21,459	24,429	24,160
Per Child Funding	\$3,505	\$3,341	\$3,360	\$3,247	\$2,942	\$2,885	\$2,542	\$2,866

# 23-25 Funding Allocation

Contractor	23-25 Biennium	21-23 Biennium	Difference
Linn-Benton Lincoln ESD	\$ 6,627,599	\$ 6,860,516	\$ (232,917)
High Desert ESD	\$ 3,648,474	\$ 4,360,028	\$ (711,554)
Portland Public SD	\$ 25,526,559	\$ 24,204,688	\$ 1,321,871
InterMountain ESD	\$ 2,912,029	\$ 3,281,431	\$ (369,402)
Lane ESD	\$ 1,327,398	\$ 2,829,518	\$ (1,502,120)
Northwest Regional ESD	\$ 14,933,656	\$ 13,726,513	\$ 1,207,143
Southern Oregon ESD	\$ 10,030,846	\$ 10,082,447	\$ (51,601)
Willamette ESD	\$ 8,778,805	\$ 10,497,389	\$ (1,718,584)
	<b>\$ 73,785,365</b>	<b>\$ 75,842,530</b>	<b>\$ (2,057,165)</b>

# Impacts of Inadequate Funding

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- Staff reductions through layoff and attrition
- Reductions of staff could result in more services being provided through a consultation model instead of a direct service model which could cause discord.
- Staffing shortages will profoundly impact the ability to fulfill the expectations of IDEA to provide each child with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment.
- Staffing shortages will result in more services to students being provided through a consultation model instead of a direct service model.
- The loss of funds and staff reductions will impact recruitment and retention of highly specialized staff such as teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing, teachers of the blind, and speech and language pathologists