

Submitter: Emily Wyatt  
On Behalf Of: WLWV Schools  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

Special education funding is so important for Boeckman Creek Primary School in Wilsonville, OR. More and more children are requiring special care and teaching. There are more IEPs and 504 plans than ever before. My daughter, who is newly diagnosed with ADHD, is having trouble getting the support she needs at school because of lack of funding, adequate staffing, and increased class sizes. She also has speech impairments and requires speech therapy at school. The speech therapist and district psychologist (along with every other school staff member) are spread incredibly thin. They are drowning in the number of students and families that need their support. We need more resources for them. Without these funds, specialized staff are burning out and students are being left behind.

I am very involved in my children's school. In fact, I am Boeckman Creek's PTA president. I am there multiple times a week. The other day, I walked in and heard blood curdling screams coming from a child with disabilities. He was running around the school screaming. Para educators and staff do their best to create a safe learning environment for these disabled students (and every other student!), but it is getting more challenging with budget cuts. This cannot continue! I also witnessed another teacher come out of her classroom in order to keep one of her students safe (as he was dis-regulated and trying to harm himself). The teacher had to leave her classroom while the rest of her students were left unattended. This is not uncommon. The WLWV schools need more special education support.

Please remove the percentage cap on the amount of money that is distributed to the school districts. The state of public school is in serious distress. Please help us! Students and families are struggling and are desperate for support from the school they attend.