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House Advances Bill to Modernize Special Education Funding for Young Learners

SALEM, OR – Yesterday, the Oregon House advanced [House Bill 2682](#), a critical step toward ensuring young children with disabilities receive strong Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) services. The bill directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to convene an advisory committee to update Oregon's outdated EI/ECSE funding model, aligning it with current program needs and family experiences.

"Effective early intervention sets children up for success in Kindergarten and beyond," Rep. Neron added. "By modernizing our approach, we can ensure young children with disabilities receive the full support they need to thrive."

House Bill 2682 paves the way for a modernized EI/ECSE funding structure by establishing an advisory committee to develop an updated model, replacing outdated assumptions with data-driven insights and aligning resources with program needs.

"Oregon's current funding model for EI/ECSE was last updated in 2011, and it no longer reflects the reality of what it takes to support young children with disabilities," said the bill's chief sponsor, **Rep. Courtney Neron** (D-Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, Tigard). "This bill ensures we have accurate, up-to-date data to guide funding decisions and deliver the services children need."

Oregon has an opportunity to strengthen its EI/ECSE funding model to better reflect the needs of young children with disabilities. A modernized approach can ensure children receive more instructional time—closer to the 30 hours per week offered by other publicly funded preschool programs—giving them greater opportunities to learn alongside their peers. Additionally, updating budgeting practices to account for the 40 percent enrollment increase, typically seen from September to June, will help maintain manageable caseloads for educators and therapists, ensuring every child receives the support they need throughout the year.

The bill has garnered strong support from a broad coalition of early childhood advocates and educators including Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition, Alliance for Early Intervention, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators, Oregon Education Association, Oregon School Employees Association, and Children's Institute. These groups recognize the urgent need to update Oregon's EI/ECSE funding model to better reflect current needs and ensure children receive the support they deserve.

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