

Special Education for Children Under 5

Under IDEA, young children with disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the natural or least restrictive environments to the maximum extent possible. Early Intervention/ Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) is the name of Oregon's program that provides FAPE for children under five. We are one of nine agencies contracted to deliver these services.

How do our services compare to our neighbors?

Meet Max



Max has an autism diagnosis and limited language skills. **How much service would a child like Max receive in a typical week?**



4 hours
in Washington County



10 to 12 hours
in Washington State



Our Program in a Nutshell

We serve 2,753 children across Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. Zero to three-year-olds are most often served at home, and three to five-year-olds are served in a variety of settings:



at home



community
preschools
and child cares



specialized
preschools/
separate
settings



"My son Colson has received services since he was a baby. This year he was in a neurotypical preschool class. I've seen kids go out of their way to hold my son's hand and bring him into a game. I see him light up inside and I know he feels included – because I can also see it when he's not. **He now says, I love you, mom.** He's a ray of sunshine instead of being insular and angry towards himself. **He's showing the world the happy, beautiful child I know him to be.**"

Annika Fitzsimmons



Types of Services

- Speech therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Behavior and social skills training
- Autism skills training using specialized instruction and curriculum
- Parent education
- Coaching for early learning providers



What We're Advocating For in 2025

- 01 \$432.8 million is needed to provide a basic level of service.** We also urge a statewide effort to study and identify a more adequate and sustainable funding formula for this program.
- 02 Maintain the promise of the Student Success Act.** Without this supplemental resource, we cannot expand access to early learning settings for children with developmental delays and disabilities – a demographic that is pushed out at strikingly high rates.
- 03 Modernize the EI/ECSE funding model.** The funding model hasn't been updated in 15 years and needs a thoughtful review and revision when it comes to current service level, adequate service level, and the reimbursement model.
- 04 Align EI/ECSE funding calculations to relevant K12 State School Fund reforms.** Calculate rollup on a 49/51 biennial split; accurately account for inflation and rising employment costs.

Did you know?

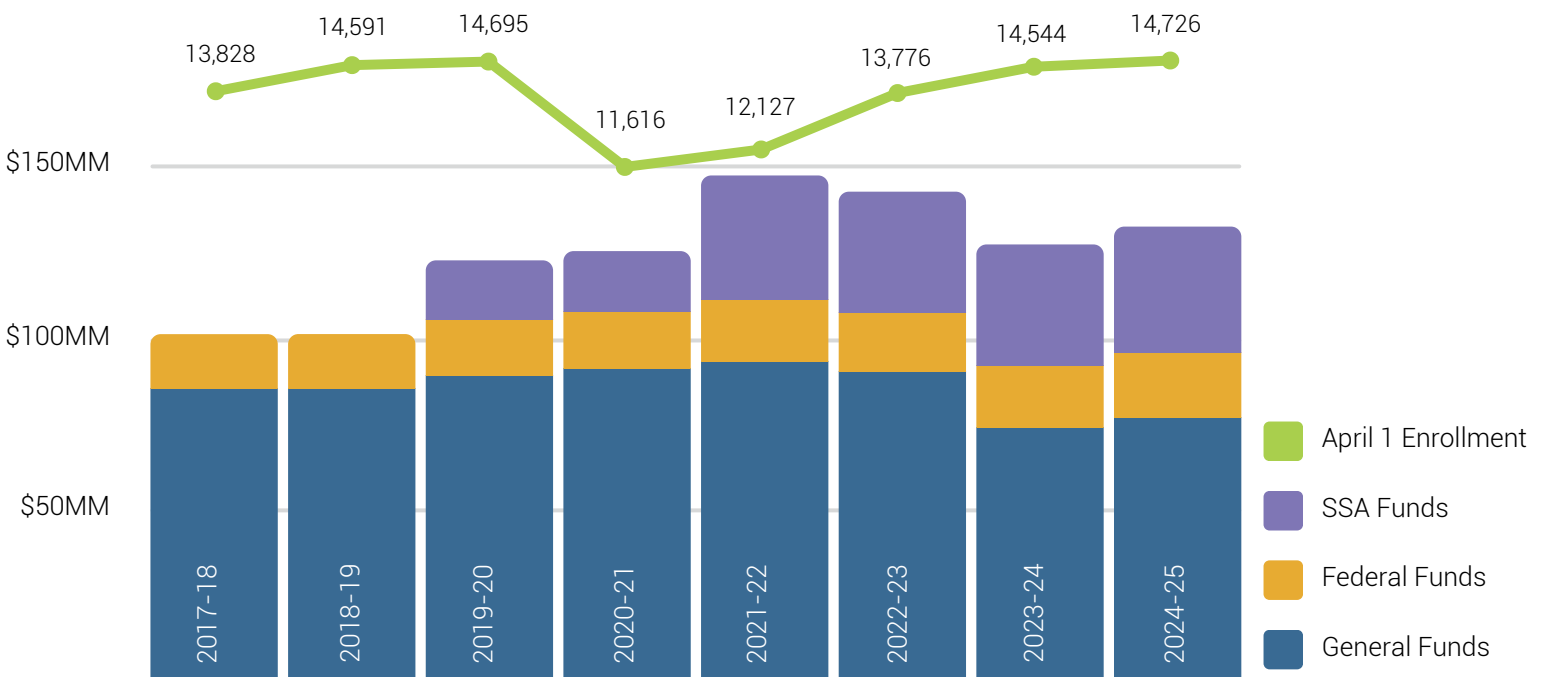
An analysis of six states found that Early Intervention services helped between 760 and 3,000 children per state avoid special education services at age 3, with a 1-year cost avoidance of between \$7.6 million to \$68.2 million depending on the state.



"We've seen a huge influx of children with special needs. We have a little girl in our classroom who wasn't able to communicate until recently – it's not just because of what I'm doing, it's not just because of what her parents are doing, it's the consistency because we are all being coached on how to support this child. **If it weren't for the ESD providers, I would be turning children like her away and it would be heartbreaking.**"

Danine Brewer, Harvest Community Preschool

Inflation Adjusted Funding Compared to Enrollment



Statewide enrollment in EI/ECSE has bounced back to pre-pandemic levels, but general fund and federal resources have declined (this does not include ESSER). Inflation rates are sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Inflation adjustments do not represent other Oregon specific considerations such as rising costs of employer provided health insurance and PERS rates.