

# Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education



Oregon's **Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE)** system partners with families and caregivers to provide free services that support learning and development for **all infants, toddlers, and young children with disabilities**. Oregon children who qualify for special education receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), as required in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). There are nine regional contractors (Education Service Districts and school districts) that provide EI/ECSE services to Oregon children.

**EI/ECSE services are vital to Oregon's future!**

### Services include:

- 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

## The Problem

- Tens of thousands of Oregon children receive EI/ECSE, yet too many children **don't receive an adequate level of services** to support their development.
- The ability to provide adequate services is directly related to the **funding that the Oregon Legislature provides** for EI/ECSE.
- Oregon's definition of adequate levels of service has not been updated in **15 years**.

**14,544**

Total number of Oregon children receiving EI/ECSE (April 2024)

**4,208**

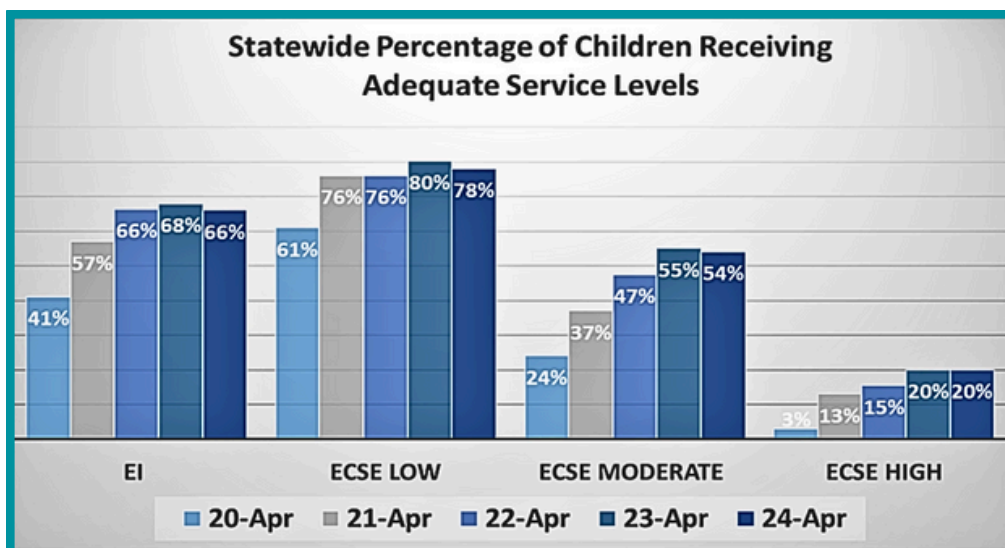
The number of Oregon children in EI (ages birth-3)

**10,336**

The number of Oregon children in ECSE (ages 3-5)

**52.9 %**

Of children who receive EI/ECSE services are in an inclusive preschool or child care setting.



## What Are the Challenges?

### Challenges to adequate service levels:

- Equitable access to inclusive preschool options for families
- EI/ECSE workforce shortages
- Early learning workforce shortages
- Geographic variance in service options
- Current funding allocations based on prior biennial enrollment data



**Increased caseloads and budget constraints have made it difficult for EI/ECSE programs to maintain adequate service levels statewide.**

## 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 one-year cost avoidance of \$7.6 million to \$68.2 million depending on the state. ***These programs work.***

## The Solution: Support EI/ECSE in 2025

**We are counting on the Oregon Legislature to restore and improve services for children** who are eligible for EI/ECSE with an updated funding model that accounts for inflation and the state's Student Success Act. This includes:



**\$432.8 million = cost for the *basic* service level.** We urge a statewide effort to study and identify a more sustainable funding formula for EI/ECSE.



**Align funding calculations to K-12 State School Fund's** current service level reforms. Calculate on a 49/51 biennial split (49% in the first half of the biennium and 51% in the second one) to budget more efficiently.



**Account for inflation:** Modernize the EI/ECSE Funding Model. After 15 years, this needs a thoughtful review and revision when it comes to current service level, adequate service level, and the reimbursement model.



**Uphold the Student Success Act's promise** to support all children's education. Without this supplementary resource, we cannot expand access to early learning settings for children with developmental delays and disabilities.



This approach is supported by Oregon's Early Childhood Coalition, comprised of more than 70 organizations advocating for a stronger statewide early childhood system. **Learn more at [bit.ly/OregonECC](https://bit.ly/OregonECC)** or scan the QR code.

