



Alliance for Early Intervention

EI/ECSE Services

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education

Fast Facts

- ⇐ Over 11,876 Oregon children receive Early Childhood Special Education services with a 3.7% expected annual increase.
- ⇐ EI/ECSE programs are collaborating with the Early Learning (EL) system by balancing mandated specialized services for children with disabilities and the broader focus of the EL system.
- ⇐ EI/ECSE services are mandated by state and federal law. Every eligible child can access services; without wait lists.
- ⇐ EI/ECSE provides special education support to Headstart, Early Headstart, and Oregon PreK.
- ⇐ Adequately fund EI/ECSE services to account for increased caseloads AND raise service levels to evidence based recommendations

Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education is a seamless system (for birth to 5 year olds) that provides special education services for babies, toddlers and preschoolers with developmental delays and disabilities.

Who receives EI/ECSE services?

- Eligible children age birth to 5 years old with conditions such as genetic disorders, cerebral palsy, autism, communication disorders, hearing or vision impairments, and other health or medical issues.

What kind of services are provided?

- parent education, consultation and support
- speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy
- behavior and social skills training
- specialized instruction in preschool settings
- specialized equipment and materials
- linkages to other services and supports

How are EI/ECSE services funded?

- 78% State General Funds
- 21% Federal IDEA Funds
- 1% Medicaid fee for service reimbursements

Funding has not kept pace with the growth in numbers of eligible children which has resulted in a continual decline in services since 2004

- 57% reduction in services to children birth to three
Children receive an average 2.8 hours per month
- 34% reduction in services to children three to five
Children receive an average of 16 hours per month
- Services are below research based recommendations

Children with Autism have seen even greater reductions:

- 66.7% reduction in services to children birth to three
- 43.4% reduction in services to children three to five

Data: Oregon Department of Education

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III. Service Level:

The number of hours of service to children with disabilities and families continues to decrease. EI/ECSE programs must serve all children who qualify (no wait lists.) Over the past ten years funding levels have not kept pace with program costs. Data from 2004 to 2011 show a decrease of 18.6 hours (66.7%) per month for children birth to age three (EI) and a decrease of 23.8 hours (43.3%) per month for children age three to Kindergarten. 2014 data indicate only 30.4% of children in EI programs; 64.1% of Low Needs children in ECSE programs; 6.9% of Moderate Needs children in ECSE programs; and 1.4% of High Needs children in ECSE programs are receiving the recommended level of service.