

OCECD FY 2014-2015 State Funding Policy Priorities

August 2012

Consistent with the Coalition's ongoing *Special Education Redesign Project*, which is focused primarily on identifying special education system design changes that can improve educational outcomes at any reasonable level of funding, OCECD offers the following special education funding policy recommendations.

1. **Fully Fund the Cost-Based, 6 weight special education funding system.** OCECD continues to support an updated, fully funded cost-based funding methodology based on the personnel and related costs required to fulfill the requirements of state and federal law. OCECD will continue its work to ensure the state's special education funding formula provides full funding for special education and related services and thus reflects the true costs of delivering mandated services. The funding model should be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis as part of the biennial state operating budget development process.
2. **Fully Fund Required Preschool Special Education Units Based on Updated Personnel Costs Thereby Providing State Funding to Over 1,000 Preschool Units Currently Receiving Only Local Financial Support.** OCECD supports fully funding existing preschool special education units and additional units as necessary to meet the needs of all preschool special education students and the districts that serve them. OCECD supports basing preschool special education unit funding on updated personnel costs. The special education unit funding formula should provide state funding for the approximately 1,000 units that currently only receive local funding. The Coalition also supports ongoing evaluation of preschool special education to assure that quality programming is in place and producing results, including effective reading readiness.
3. **Fully Fund Catastrophic Special Education.** Under catastrophic special education funding districts are reimbursed for more than 50 percent of the costs above \$27,375 per student for students in special education categories 2 through 5. The special education category 6 cost threshold per student is \$32,850.
4. **Fully Fund Special Education Enhancements.** OCECD recommends that the Special Education Enhancements Line Item, 200-540, be fully funded to adequately support key support programs, including Parent-Mentors, School Psychologist Interns, and Preschool Special Education.