

Direction Service

Helping people with disabilities and special needs live full and healthy lives!

The Oregon Department of Education reported that during the 2024-2025 school year, **more than 16% of Lane County students experienced a disability**. This included more than 5,000 students enrolled in Eugene, Springfield, and Bethel schools.

Direction Service believes that every young person deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. **For parents of youth who experience a disability or other challenge, support and guidance makes all the difference.**

For nearly 50 years, the agency has provided a critical safety net in Lane County. In the past year, Direction Service supported and advocated for nearly 1,000 local youth (and their families). Our team works hard to fill service gaps and ensure the youth we serve have the tools and resources to be successful in school and beyond.

Jeaux Bartlett, a Direction Service parent recalls their own experience with the Direction Service Education Team:

“The pandemic completely battered my kids’ mental health. After my teenage son, Duncan, came home from out-of state residential treatment, I was looking for more services for him.

Direction Service attended every single IEP and safety meeting with me and his school. Knowing that the support and back-up is there gave me, as a parent, a huge sense of relief and confidence that I could actually get my kid’s needs met.”



The Direction Service Education Team is available to families at zero cost, but we can’t do this work without your help. Your donation helps ensure that parents like Jeaux can continue to access valuable support from Direction Service.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!

COLLABORATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Research resoundingly concludes that **positive relationships between schools and parents directly correlate with student success**. For students with disabilities, ongoing, and sometimes exhaustive, advocacy and problem-solving can be necessary.

Direction Service works with every school district in Lane County and regularly partners with educators and other community organizations to ensure clients receive the highest level of support.

“Direction Service showed up to fight for my kid year after year. Without that support, I’m confident that my son would have been expelled from school and had very few prospects for a future.

We are forever grateful for that advocacy. It really changed our lives.”

- Direction Service Parent

Your investment ensures youth and families impacted by physical and behavioral disabilities can access resources and that promote positive learning, stability, and prosperity.

351

Lane County youth and their families received support from the Direction Service Education Team during the 2024-2025 school year.



97%

of youth served by Direction Service **have an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan** that contains specific accommodations that a student will receive.

To strengthen and empower families, our team:



Helps families understand, access, and coordinate services and supports to meet basic needs including food, housing, medical care, respite, and job placement.



Provides encouragement, emotional support, and continuity to reduce isolation and help families feel more control of their lives.



Advocates to ensure youth and family needs are met in a timely manner, without duplication or confusion, and before more expensive services are required.



Arranges and attends school, medical, mental health, and other meetings with families to ensure their voice is heard and to promote collaboration.