

# EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD

## NORTHWEST

### Child advocates say state efforts lacking

SALEM — Seven years after Oregon set benchmarks to improve the lives of its children, an advocacy group is still giving the state only a C grade for its efforts.

The annual report by Children First for Oregon said Oregon showed no improvement in childhood poverty, teen dropouts and juvenile suicide attempts.

The Portland-based group tracks statistics on nearly 800,000 children.

The nonprofit group also reported Wednesday that it found the state lagging behind its goals for curbing child abuse and neglect, collecting child support payments and providing affordable housing and immunizations.