

## Task Force on School Funding: Subcommittee on High Cost Disabilities

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Place: Basement Room C

Department of Education

255 Capital Street NE, Salem OR

**BACKGROUND:** In simplest terms, the education of Oregon students is funded by taking the total amount of state funds appropriated by the Legislature, along with local revenue, then divide by the number of students enrolled. Districts are sent the money based largely on their enrollment and not costs.

**PROBLEM:** Some students cost many more times than the average amount appropriated.

**SOLUTION:** A *grant* (not a bigger weight) is given to school districts if they have a student with a disability for whom the approved costs to the school district exceed \$30,000.

### ISSUES WITH THAT SOLUTION:

1. Is the \$30,000 threshold floor too high, especially for small districts?
2. Is the \$30,000 threshold too low, as the amount of prorated reimbursement continues to decrease over time?

### POLICY QUESTIONS:

- Should the floor be reduced? If so, to what?
- If the floor is reduced, what effect would that have on the funding level of all students?
- Is current funding levels adequate? It's prorated now.
- Is the current model equitable?
- Should there be incentives for districts to keep costs down?

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**11:30: Overview and History of High Cost Disability Grant**

Mike Wiltfong, ODE

**12:00: Purpose of Fund, Limits**

**What Districts Use It, How Often? Are some districts disproportionately affected?**

**Financial Ramifications on Districts**

**1:00: Prepare recommendations for full task force**

**1:30: Adjourn**

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*Questions or requests to be added to the task force distribution list may be e-mailed to Brian Reeder, [brian.reeder@state.or.us](mailto:brian.reeder@state.or.us) or Jan McComb, [jan.mccomb@state.or.us](mailto:jan.mccomb@state.or.us)*