

Subject: Senate Bill 1528: Important follow-up from 2/3/14 testimony

Chair Burdick, Vice-Chair George, Senator Baertschiger, Senator Rosenbaum, and Senator Hass,

Thank you again for your time while I provided testimony during the initial hearing for Senate Bill 1528. The goal of my testimony was to make sure you had a solid idea about the funding needs across the state, and the challenges, school achievement and aspirations of students in treatment across Oregon. As I mentioned in the testimony, it's hard for them to have a visible presence in a process like this.

I'm responsible for 24% of the current LTCT educational slots across the state of Oregon. All of these are located within treatment agencies within Portland Public Schools' boundaries plus two locations in the Parkrose School District.

Senate Bill 1528 will benefit many LTCT treatment-based school programs, but I've been running different budget scenarios based on Senate Bill 1528 for my program and I estimate I will receive anywhere between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000 *less* per year under the new funding formula. This is the equivalent of 3-11 teachers for a program which currently has 30.5 licensed staff.

The reason for the possible reduction is reduced enrollment trends over time compared to the current capacity of programs.

I described the realities and needs of our students in my testimony. If I have to absorb reductions of \$250,000-\$1,000,000, it becomes *increasingly difficult* to do the following:

- Provide quality instruction which helps students meet Common Core and other content standards/benchmarks
- Provide safe classrooms for students with intense emotional needs to learn in
- Provide students necessary special education and ESL services critical to meeting their increased expectations
- Provide students transition services which helps them move from treatment to more typical school settings
- Provide students sufficient staffing to offer one-on-one and small group instruction necessary to help them overcome some of the learning hurdles they experience

My main question:

Is it possible to expand funding where appropriate and hold funding steady where a change to statute might impact some programs in unintended ways? For example, a supplement to the State School Fund grant amount for districts that want to maintain an adequate service level?

I can explain in more detail how the formula impacts the funding to programs.

I know you'll have to make a decision about this soon. I will call your offices to see if there is a time I could speak to you on the phone or come down again to talk in person before Monday afternoon. It's very important to me that you're fully informed when making this decision. I feel a responsibility to the 200 students I work with to make sure I'm advocating for their needs. If you or your staff want to contact me, I'm available anytime at mvanhoom@pps.net, 503-577-7126, or 503-858-5061.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Mark Van Hoomissen
Principal
Portland DART School
503-916-6457
503-577-7126