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## HB 2927

*Increases the amount transferred from State School Fund to High Cost Disabilities Account each fiscal year.*

### Problem/Background:

- Per the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), schools are required to provide all necessary services to students with disabilities, who are allotted 2.0 weights for ADMw, or just over \$13,500 per student;
- The current formula-driven High-Cost Disabilities Grant (HCDG) reimburses schools for the cost above-and-beyond the formula for serving high-need students, triggered at a threshold of \$30,000;
- The funding for the Grant has remained stable since the 2007-2008 school year at \$18 million, whereas the expenses the Grant is designed to reimburse have climbed. Total allowed claims in the 2012-2013 school year were estimated at \$44.5 million, bringing the reimbursement rate to 40 percent of actual allowed cost.

### Solution:

- We propose that the Grant program be funded at \$36 million, a level sufficient to reimburse districts at 80 percent. This is a recommendation directly from the Task Force on School Funding, which resulted from HB 2506 in the 2013 session.

### Important terms:

- *High Cost Disabilities Account:* Established in 2003, it is a grant program designed to reimburse a "school district [who] has a resident pupil with a disability for whom the eligible costs to the school district of providing special education and related services exceed \$30,000." The Legislature appropriates funds each biennium, and if the funds are lower than the actual claims, the amount reimbursed is prorated.

### Case Example:

In the 2012-2013 school year, Forest Grove had over \$3.6 million in eligible claims against the grant program. Due to the reimbursement rate of 40 percent, the shortfall in funding for that school year was nearly \$2 million. This puts the Forest Grove School District at number one on the list of all State school districts for the highest amount claimed for disabled students per capita in that year.

### Support/Opposition:

We have yet to identify anyone in opposition to this bill. Supporters include the members of the Task force on School Funding, the co-chairs of the Ways and Means Committee, and several members of the House and Senate. **This was the only recommendation made by the Task Force on School Funding.**