

October 24, 2013

Agenda Item V

SB 529 Update

Purpose of this Agenda Item: Information

This agenda item is scheduled as an overview of SB 529 which became law on March 21, 2013. SB 529 allows school districts to "Opt-Out" of their local ESD while retaining 90% of the ADMw that would otherwise be collected by the ESD and used to provide services for that district. These services include education for students with uniquely special need, evaluation services, school improvement services, and technical services. School districts who "opt out" must then provide these for themselves.

As board members may be aware, there is discussion in the state among some school districts that see an imbalance between the dollars collected and the services children from their attendance boundaries receive. For example, West Linn enrollment accounts for 14.7% of the ESD's ADMw, but they only use 7.5% of their services. On the other end of the spectrum, Oregon City contributes 14.1% and uses 17.5%. For the purpose of assuring equity across the county, especially for children with disabilities who may live in higher concentration in some areas, the dollars have historically been used to serve the county. This philosophical framework shifts with SB 529, and districts like West Linn and Hillsboro are forced to ask the question about taking their dollars off the table for use in serving children in the county.

For Molalla, our "contribution" based on enrollment is 4.8%. Of the services provided by the ESD, we use 6.6%. Like Oregon City, our children's needs are met using dollars received by the ESD from throughout the county. From a philosophical standpoint, this makes sense as we have higher concentrations of students with uniquely special needs, and the funding formulas assure equity in the county.

County superintendents are working with the ESD to analyze the potential impact should certain district(s) choose to "Opt Out" under SB 529, and the board will receive updated information as this evolves.

Tony Mann

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony", with a stylized flourish at the end.