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IMESD District Board Talking Points July 2017

State Update The 2017 legislative session is drawing to a close and will be remembered as one of lost opportunities. In order to summarize the session, one needs to consider a “cup half empty/half full” perspective:

Half Full: The legislature pulled off a remarkable achievement in attaining the \$8.2 state school fund allocation, despite a \$1.4 billion hole in the budget. \$8.2 billion is an 11% increase over the current K-12 budget, created with no structural revenue changes. Measure 98 will also be funded at approximately 50% of the original passage amount. In summary, this budget clearly shows a commitment to K-12 education in the state. \$8.2 billion is a status quo budget for most of our districts, depending on their PERS and enrollment situations.

Half Empty: The legislature was only a few votes away from reaching a monumental compromise that would have addressed our broken structures and positioned Oregon for future success. Cost containment strategies (PERS and Health Care reform) coupled with increased revenue (business/corporate tax) were there for the taking. However, the leadership on both sides failed to reach consensus and, once again, the can was kicked down the road. We now face another controversial business tax ballot measure in November, and a legislature that won't address structural changes until 2019.