

HB 2953 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Revenue

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes the percentage cap on the amount of moneys that are distributed from the State School Fund to school districts in providing educational services to students eligible for special education as a child with a disability. First applies to the State School Fund distributions in the 2025-26 school year. Takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A student with an individualized education plan or IEP (often called a special education student), receives an extra weight of one. The formula weight for the student is then 2.0. In effect, one student counts as two students. Technically, the student counts as two ADMw (weighted average daily membership), where the “w” stands for weighted.

The double weighting primarily reflects a national study that showed districts were on average spending about twice the norm for services to special education students. Although some special education students cost much more than twice the average and others cost less, the Legislature wanted to avoid creating a complicated weighting scheme that would encourage districts to classify students in categories that generated more funds.

Currently, a school district may not receive the double weight for more than 11 percent of its ADM (average Daily Membership) without a waiver from the Oregon Department of Education. The identification of a student with a disability is a rigorous process. However, the Legislature established the 11% cap to discourage school districts from over-identifying students with disabilities and receiving more state aid than is justified.