

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 1, 2015

**Oregon House Provides much-needed relief to School Districts
including Salem-Keizer and Central School Districts**

*House Bill 2927 will make a dedicated investment in our schools
and high-need students*

Salem- School districts around Oregon will receive increased support for High-Needs students under HB 2927 which passed the House Wednesday by a vote of 52-5.

Rep. Susan McLain (D- Forest Grove) carried House Bill 2927 on the House floor. The bill will increase the funding for the High Cost Disability Account from \$18 million to \$35 million, an amount already accounted for in the K-12 schools budget that passed Tuesday.

The High Cost Disabilities Account was established in 2003, and is a grant program designed to reimburse school districts for the costs of educating students whose eligible serve costs are above \$30,000. The Legislature sends funds to the High Cost Disability Account every biennium. The account has been funded at \$18 million per year since the 2007-2008 academic school year, even while the need especially in the Salem Keizer School District has skyrocketed much higher than the allotment. Over \$42.5 million in needed funds were claimed in the 2013-2014 school year.

“I think this is a critical need” said Representative Paul Evans (D- Monmouth) “and on behalf of the Salem-Keizer school district, who is very excited about this particular formulaic change, I strongly support this bill.”

At current funding levels, districts are reimbursed at roughly 40 percent of their costs – which has resulted in millions of unreimbursed costs to schools.

House Bill 2927 now moves to the Senate for consideration.