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Background Brief on ...

Regional Education Delivery Services

An Education Service District (**ESD**) is an education district that provides regional education services to its component school district. Over the years, ESD responsibilities, names, and borders have changed to better meet the demands of their component school districts. ESDs exist to provide services to school districts that might be more efficiently performed on a larger scale, such as special education services or technology services. Today there are 19 ESDs statewide offering services to all 197 school districts in Oregon's 36 counties.

Education Service District (ESD) History

ESDs were established by the Legislative Assembly in 1961. Throughout the history of Oregon's regional services system, local governance and state statutes concerning the mission of ESDs have remained constant: assist school districts and the state in achieving Oregon's education goals by providing equitable educational opportunities for all of Oregon's public school students. ESDs achieve the mandate by providing equitable, high-quality, and cost-effective educational services at a regional level.

Current ESDs

ESD Name	County
Clackamas ESD	Clackamas
Columbia Gorge ESD	Wasco
Douglas ESD	Douglas
Grant ESD	Grant
Harney ESD 17	Harney
High Desert ESD	Deschutes
InterMountain ESD	Umatilla
Jefferson ESD	Jefferson
Lake ESD	Lake
Lane ESD	Lane
Linn Benton Lincoln ESD	Linn
Malheur ESD 14	Malheur
Multnomah ESD	Multnomah
North Central ESD	Gilliam
Northwest Regional ESD	Washington
Region 18 ESD	Wallowa
South Coast ESD 7	Coos
Southern Oregon ESD	Jackson
Willamette ESD	Marion

Operation and Service Offerings

ESDs deploy services across multiple school districts, providing the schools in those districts with access to a wide array of educational programs and services, many of which are too costly or limited in demand for a single location. By coordinating a program or service among multiple districts, ESDs are able to moderate costs.

Each ESD provides regional services to its component school districts, primarily in areas that the school districts alone would not be able to adequately and equitably provide. These services are negotiated with their component school districts. Examples would be high-cost technology systems, or services for children with severe disabilities who qualify under the category of high-cost but low-incidence. These services are categorized in four general areas of offering: Special Needs Children, School

Improvement, Technology, and Administrative services.

Funding and Apportionment

ESDs are funded primarily through an allocation from the State School Fund (SSF) formula. By law, ESDs are budgeted 4.5 percent of the total K-12 apportionment. ESDs also receive funding from a variety of other sources, including property taxes, state and federal contracts and grants, and state timber receipts. The total allotment for ESDs, including state and local revenues, is approximately \$200 million annually.

Each ESD must spend at least 90 percent of its total SSF funds directly on school district programs or services. The remaining 10 percent is allocated for the operation of the ESD. State contracts, such as Early Intervention, Early Childhood Special Education, and Long-Term Care and Treatment programs, make up another portion of an ESD's budget. In addition, school districts often contract with their ESD for additional services beyond what is provided in the Local Service Plan.

Recent Legislative History

Prior to the 2011 Legislative Session, the State School Fund distribution to ESDs was 4.75 percent of the relevant apportionment. Senate Bill 250 (2011) changed that rate to 4.5 percent, where it remains currently. Senate Bill 250 also allows a school district to withdraw from its ESD if it was located within certain ESDs.

House Bill 3401 (2013) allows districts in three ESD regions—Northwest Regional ESD, Lane ESD, and Columbia Gorge ESD—to request funds normally designated to the ESD-provided services or programs. For the 2014-15 school year, the district can request up to 65 percent of the resolution funds to be passed through by the ESD to the district. The school district may request an additional 10 percent (for a total of 75 percent) if it can provide evidence that the additional amount will be spent on services purchased from other ESDs. For the 2015-16 school year, the amounts are increased to 75 percent and 85 percent, and starting in the 2016-

17 school year there are no limits. That measure also established a workgroup to explore options for the optimal regional education delivery system and report back to the Legislative Assembly. Senate Bill 1525 (2014) extended the timeline of that work group, the Regional Education Delivery Systems work group, with a report due to the Legislative Assembly no later than November 20, 2014.

Senate Bill 529 (2013) allows any school district to withdraw from their ESD. It also made permanent a new governance structure for the Willamette ESD, High Desert ESD, and Northwest Regional ESD.

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