

## SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING IN HB2808

### 5 KEY FACTS

#### 1 No district loses existing special education funding under HB2808.

Districts will continue to receive their current (2016-17) special education funding as a part of the Base Funding Minimum built into the formula. In addition to this, new funds will be allocated for special education according to the method outlined below. Excess cost special education will continue to be funded the same way it is under the current system.

#### 3 Special education student needs are taken into account in the new formula.

The new formula calculates the cost of providing a high-quality education based on student needs, including special education students (as well as low-income students, English learners and others). The legislation allocates funding for special education based on total student enrollment, resulting in one special education teacher and one instructional assistant for every 20 students with an IEP, on average. This is not to be confused with class sizes for special education classes. In every district some IEPs do not call for direct instruction in a dedicated special education classroom.

Additionally, the formula accounts for the cost of providing one psychologist per 1,000 students, one nurse per 750 students and one reading and math specialist per school. One guidance counselor or social worker would be provided per 450 students in K-5 and per 250 students in 6-12.

#### 5 The bill provides for ongoing review to ensure the funding formula continues to meet student needs.

The legislation establishes a professional judgement panel that is charged with reviewing and making recommendations for future changes in special education funding.

#### 2 As the state invests more in education, special education funding automatically increases. For example, adding \$235 million into the formula would mean an increase of \$45 per special education student.

Each year, as new funding is added to the system, this per-pupil amount for special education students will continue to increase. HB2808 does this by connecting increases in special education funding to increases in funding for the entire system.

Under the current system, the reimbursement for personnel costs has remained at \$9,000 per certified teacher since 2005 and requires a change in statute to be increased. Under the evidence based model (EBM), resources will increase each year rather than being stagnant.

#### 4 Special education funding must be used to serve special education students.

Changing funding systems doesn't change the requirements to meet the IEP of students. Plus, all existing rules for special education services continue to apply. Finally, the state and districts must continue to comply with all current reporting requirements and federal maintenance of effort requirements, meaning that the level of state and local funding for special education cannot decrease year-over-year.