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Media Release

Hillsboro School District to Receive Additional Gain Share Money from County and City

The District will be given \$728,716 more than initially projected for the 2014-15 school year

July 18, 2014, Hillsboro, OR – Earlier today, Washington County Board of Commissioners Chair Andy Duyck and Hillsboro Mayor Jerry Willey announced that local jurisdictions are receiving approximately \$6 million more in Gain Share* funds than initially anticipated for 2014-15 and have chosen to give half of that money (\$3 million) to Washington County school districts according to their student populations.

The decision to gift a portion of 2013-15 Gain Share funds to local school districts was first announced on June 6, 2013. At that time, the anticipated amount of distribution was \$10 million over the two-year period; now, the total distribution will be approximately \$13 million for the biennium.

Hillsboro's share of the distribution was \$1,201,905 in the 2013-14 school year, an amount that allowed the District to add three school days back to the calendar. The District had also slated its 2014-15 distribution of \$1,218,272, along with a portion of additional State School Fund dollars, to be used for the restoration of school days. Currently, the District is scheduled to have just one budget reduction day (November 26, 2014) in the 2014-15 school year, down from a potential of five days.

A decision on how to spend the additional \$728,716 (bringing Hillsboro's total distribution for 2014-15 to \$1,946,988) will need to be made in consultation with the Board; those conversations will likely begin at the next regular session meeting on Tuesday, July 29.

"We are thrilled about the County's and City's decision to invest additional dollars in our local schools," expressed Board Chair Kim Strelchun. "At a time when we are finally able to begin restoring funds to our system, this money will help us gain even more momentum for the ultimate benefit of students. We are sincerely grateful for our ongoing partnership with Washington County and the City of Hillsboro."

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*Gain Share is money that local taxing authorities receive back from the state as a result of tax abatement agreements with large employers. Through Strategic Investment Program (SIP) agreements, large employers can pay less money in taxes in exchange for their significant investments in their physical plants. The income tax collected from employees who are new to those companies as a result of the investment is held separately by the state—half is kept at the state level and half is returned to local taxing authorities.

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