

Testimony before the  
**Senate Select Committee for Educational Finance**  
on  
**Sub for HB 2410**  
By

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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee

Thank you for your time and consideration on this bill, as organizations we stand opposed to this bill, but feel there are many strong components written into the bill.

In the fall of 2015, USA-Kansas, KSSA, and the Kansas School Business Officials Association established a committee to study a school funding framework. Over 18 months of large and small meetings, KASB research, and the expertise of over 200 teachers, principals, superintendents, school business officials, school board members, and insight from a few legislators we developed a framework for a New School Finance Formula.

Within the framework we developed six key principles a new funding formula should meet:

- **Every public school student in Kansas will have an equal opportunity to be college and career ready, as defined by the Kansas State Board of Education Kansans Can mission and vision as aligned with the Rose Standards;**
- **Some students will require greater supports to meet standards;**
- **Funding to districts must be directly related to what it costs to educate each individual student;**
- **Any formula must meet constitutional requirements for equity and adequacy;**
- **The formula should recognize local control and provide funding of educational services; and**
- **The Legislature and school districts need budgeting predictability.**

Within the bill you're working, we feel a number of our concerns are being addressed:

1. Foundation aid per student
2. Fully funding Kindergarten
3. Pre-K Expansion
4. ELL flexibility

5. At-risk weighting based on free lunch count
6. Career and Technical Education weighting at at least .5
7. Restoring SPED reimbursement to 92%
8. Virtual school state aid
9. Additional support for Professional Development
10. LOB/LFB at 33% without election
11. KSDE Board designed accreditation process

Unfortunately this bill doesn't go far enough! Meeting the ever-growing and changing needs of today's student can't be done without resources. Prior to the completion of our funding proposal the State Board of Education released budget recommendations for the FY 2018 and FY 2019 school years. This recommendation included an additional \$893 million over the next two years. Understanding where schools have been, where they are at, and where they need to go, we support this increase. Here's why:

- If we don't fund this formula any differently than the previous formula, we are going to find ourselves right back in the same situation.
- The growing safety needs for school-age children, from transportation to and from school, social, emotional, and physical safety at school, and the growing expectation/concerns of a student's well being
- Kansas schools must continue to meet the academic, career, and social expectations of the future
- Kansas schools must be staffed with highly trained teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists, and administrators
- The overall expectations placed on schools continue to grow and expand
- Expanding the connection between higher education and the PK-12 worlds
- Kansas Educators deserve to be treated as highly educated professionals

Our committee worked hard to put together a framework prior to the start of the legislative session in the hopes this issue would be resolved early. We were then, and remain eager to work with legislators to reach the common goal of an equitable and adequate School Finance Formula in a timely manner so school districts across the state of Kansas have the opportunity to plan and prepare for the 2017-2018 school year. By reaching a timely agreement you can ensure that school districts have time to assess and carry out staffing needs, initiate new programming, plan budgets, etc., which will better allow them to meet the needs of Kansas Students.

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