



Prairie Hills, USD 113  
Todd Evans, Superintendent  
1619 S Old Hwy 75  
Sabetha, KS 66534

March 14, 2019,

The purpose of this letter is to provide information against some of the components of HB 2395. USD 113 is a consolidated district. USD 441 (Sabtha-Wetmore) consolidated in 2010 with USD 488 (Bern, Axtell, Summerfield). There are two components of this proposed legislation that I see as being detrimental to our district.

The first, overall opposing point is the loss of local control in regard to spending. Some of the facets of HB2395 determine specific spending areas. In the best interest of USD 113 is to put new money into the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP). This allows our local board of education the ability to ascertain the needs of the students in the district and to allocate money where it is most needed at the local level. It has been my understanding that the Legislature in the State of Kansas has been traditionally supportive of Local Control. By tying strings to specific spending, the authority of the local board of education is undermined.

The second point is the component that requires the spending down of cash balances. How did USD 113 get cash carryovers? Both USD 441 and USD 488 had balances when consolidation occurred eight years ago. These accounts were not as substantial as they are now. A significant reason our carryovers are higher now is because of long range planning to use them as we came off the 5 year locked in (consolidation incentive) budget. As we trimmed our expenses, we continued to receive the same revenue during this time. This "trimming" included painful school closures that impacted communities and education-related jobs that were lost. USD 488 and USD 441 agreed to consolidation because of the financial incentives that were offered.

Another way that we have obtained cash carryovers is from our local taxpayers. With our Supplemental General Budget, we are a 30% district. This is a formula that allows us to tax district taxpayers up to 30% of our General Fund budget. We also levy a Capital Outlay tax. This money is not for operational expenses, but it helps our operational funds by alleviating the demand on those funds. Capital outlay funds provide for roof repairs, heating and cooling systems, etc.

Our local taxpayers have invested and sacrificed for our district because of our focus on providing a quality education for our children. The recommendation for our district to receive a reduced level of state aid because we have maintained a long range plan that puts our district in a strong fiscal situation is difficult to accept.

A requirement to spend carryovers that are in our district would be renegeing on the consolidation agreement that our district's constituents had with the State of Kansas when they voted to consolidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Todd J. Evans'.

Todd J. Evans

**Todd Evans | Superintendent | [evanst@usd113.org](mailto:evanst@usd113.org)**

**Jennifer Gatz | Director of Student Learning | [gatzj@usd113.org](mailto:gatzj@usd113.org)**

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