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**Logan Avenue Elementary**  
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**Village Elementary**  
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February 3, 2020

Written Testimony

Kansas State Legislature  
Committee on K-12 Education Budget  
HB 2526

Submitted by:  
Rob Scheib, Asst. Superintendent for Business

On behalf of our school district we are presenting informational testimony regarding the implementation of state aide for general obligation bonds for school districts covered by House Bill #2526. For the reasons below, adopting language that would exclude Fort Leavenworth USD 207 from the calculation schedule and include bond elections back to 2015 would have a significant impact on local property taxes in Emporia USD 253.

Emporia Public Schools recently passed a \$78m bond election by a 2:1 ratio for improvements to safety and security, addition and renovation of academic space, building systems such as HVAC, and improved parking and traffic flow. New construction including a dedicated science wing at Emporia High School makes up 52% of the work while renovation of 1950's classrooms is 21%, building systems is 21%, storm shelters are 5% and site work 1%.

Emporia Public Schools is a high poverty district with capital outlay state aid of 64% and LOB supplemental general state aid at 67%. The bonds from the 2000 bond election that will retire fall of 2021 receive state aid of 64%.

The new bonds issued for the 2019 bond election receive 33% state aid. The difference between the state aid for the old bonds and the new bonds gave us the choice of adding 4 mills to the local levy or adding 6 years to the payout. We chose to keep the mill levy within half a mill of current levels and a 28 year payout.

We are proud of our commitment to providing modern well maintained school facilities. Eliminating deferred maintenance and adding much needed building additions and improvements must be a priority to help keep our education system strong in Kansas. Continuing to support state aid funding on corrected schedule for bond projects along with updating outdated facilities will help to ensure that all districts receive equitable funding and students receive equitable opportunity.