



Rep. Adam Thomas, Chair
House Committee on Education

House Bill No. 2040

IN SUPPORT

I would like to thank the committee for considering this bill. USD #250, Pittsburg Community Schools are a **proponent** to HB 2040. We appreciate the work that has gone into the thought and preparation of this important topic.

USD #250, is a district that is experiencing growth. In the last 10 years we have seen an average increase of 40 students per year. In Southeast Kansas, that is an anomaly. The yearly increase in enrollment compels our district to hire additional staff, both certified and classified to meet the needs of our students. This compresses the amount of the remaining funds that we can use on other resources to meet students' needs and the rising costs of operating the school district.

Although growth is a positive aspect of our district and community, the current school finance formula neutralizes our ability to adequately keep pace with salaries and costs. Past school finance law allowed for a district to be funded on the: 1) Current year enrollment; 2) the prior year enrollment; or 3) the 3-year average (whichever is higher) with no lag time. *The current law bases funding on the preceding years enrollment.* In growing districts, this places an additional burden on the budgets by forcing them to pay for the additional resources to meet current student needs while waiting for a year to receive the funding necessary to pay for them.

Unfortunately, there are many districts across the state with declining enrollments. The current law provides protections for those districts to see immediate budget reductions that would impact them in a negative manner. Placing new language into law, through HB 2040 would allow time for declining districts to plan for budget reductions, but also allow growing districts to receive the needed funding to correspond with the present needs. I do not believe that the current law was intended to penalize any district, but was rather to provide the legislature additional time to prepare for its own budget. However, an unintended consequence was that it has negative effects on growing districts.

I encourage you to support and adopt this important change to fund growing school districts in an appropriate way by allowing them to base funding on current year's enrollment rather than previous year's enrollment. This change will help district with increasing enrollments keep pace with needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Proffitt
Superintendent of Schools

Richard Proffitt, Pittsburg Community Schools, USD 250

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