



Office of the Superintendent

Dodge City Public Schools • Unified School District 443

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TO: Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Alan R. Cunningham, Superintendent of Schools
Dodge City Unified School District 443
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 259
DATE: Friday, January 20, 2012

Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Alan Cunningham. I am the Superintendent of Schools in Dodge City Unified School District 443. I appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Senate Bill 259, concerning employment after retirement for public school employees.

I encourage the Committee's approval of Senate Bill 259, which would continue the ability of Kansas school districts to re-employ professional educators after their retirement.

Throughout western Kansas, school districts have been able to keep many of their highly-qualified, highly-trained teachers as a result of the provisions in the current statute. It is my opinion, as well as that of many of my peers, that our students have benefitted greatly from having continued their education under the instruction of these professionals.

To the point:

- The provisions of this statute permit school districts to continue to staff high-demand, hard-to-fill positions, including Mathematics, Science, Technology and others, with highly-qualified teachers;
- The current KPERS surcharge for re-employment of these teachers results in additional revenue to the KPERS System, without any additional liability for these teachers' years of service. (I would argue, however, that the elimination or reduction of this surcharge would make it even *more* attractive for additional educators to return to the classroom.);
- The law's current provisions allow Kansas educators the choice to continue working to meet the needs of Kansas learners.

It is my opinion that there is no "downside" to continuing the provisions of the current statute. Kansas students will continue to benefit from these people who love what they do and who want to keep teaching in our State's classrooms.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your support of SB 259.

Alan R. Cunningham,
Superintendent of Schools
Dodge City USD 443