



Testimony to House Education Budget Committee

HB 2003 – School Finance Formula

February 14, 2013

Dave Trabert, President

Chairman Cassidy and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2003 to revise the accounting of the state’s provision for funding of schools. The manner in which Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) is calculated and evaluated by the courts under the current formula significantly understates the Legislature’s provision for funding of schools.

Article 6, Section 6 of the Kansas Constitution says, “The legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the state.” It does not say that all of the money shall be provided through the General Fund or any other state fund, nor does it reference BSAPP as the determinant of whether the Legislature has made suitable provision for school funding...yet BSAPP has become the litmus test.

The Legislature makes provision for financing public schools in several ways. A complicated formula, which includes BSAPP as one element, determines how funding is dispersed from the state budget. But the State also makes provision for districts to receive other funding.

2011-12 Taxpayer Support of K-12 Education in Kansas

Format	State Aid	Federal Aid	Local Revenue	Total Expenditures
Dollars (in millions)	\$3,184.2	\$447.4	\$2,139.4	\$5,771.0
Dollars Per-Pupil	\$6,983	\$981	\$4,692	\$12,656

Source: Kansas Department of Education

For the 2011-12 school year, \$3.2 billion dollars was sent to school districts out of the State budget. Another \$2.1 billion was considered Local Revenue but \$1.546 billion of that total was property tax money provided through State authority.

	<u>2011-12 School Year</u>
Total State Aid per KSDE (1)	\$ 3,184,163,559
Total Local Aid per KSDE	\$ 2,139,429,840
Less Local Aid not from State Authority	
Voter-approved Bond and Interest payments	\$ (345,817,396)
Transportation fees	\$ (520,539)
User Charges	\$ (872,688)
Interest on Idle Funds	\$ (4,651,887)
Activity Fees	\$ (25,698,538)
Tuition	\$ (3,014,770)
Textbook Sale, Rental, Fees & Fines	\$ (5,687,105)
Gifts & Grants	\$ (19,329,836)
Food Sales	\$ (70,997,515)
Other	\$ (116,883,261)
Local Aid Raised on State Authority (2)	<u>\$ 1,545,956,305</u>
Total Aid Provided Under State Authority (1) + (2)	<u>\$ 4,730,119,864</u>
Base State Aid Per Pupil (\$3,780 x FTE enrolled)	\$ 1,723,681,890
BSAPP as Percent of Total State Provision	36%

Source: Kansas Dept. of Education

So while the Legislature made provision for \$4.7 billion, it is often only credited with the portion attributed to BSAPP. Last year, Base State Aid Per Pupil accounted for only 36% of aid provided under State authority.