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**House K-12 Budget Committee**  
**Neutral Testimony on House Bill 2270**

Please accept the following as written testimony on behalf of the Shawnee Mission School District on House Bill 2270. We appreciate this committee undertaking a review of proposed school finance formulas during the 2017 session and begin this process.

House Bill 2270 contains several components we support:

- Establishes a school finance formula that will replace the block grant as we do not support continuation of the block grant.
- Contains the key components of any sound formula including per pupil funding, targeted at-risk resources, English language funding, funding transportation.
- All day kindergarten fully funded.
- Does not support or expand vouchers or tuition tax credits and other drains on the public school system.

We are neutral on House Bill 2270 because the bill essentially is the same formula as the formula passed in 1992 and amended over the years. Shawnee Mission School District has always opposed the previous formula. We believe changing the formula can provide for adequacy, demonstrate financial suitability, and target resources to address inequities.

We believe a new formula, not currently included in House Bill 2270, should include:

- A base funding per pupil that funds adequacy based on data, not an arbitrary number.
- Census driven and databased at-risk calculations to target at-risk funding.
- A more accurate and scientific multi-point pupil count.
- Funded early childhood programs statewide.
- A higher base per pupil, fewer weightings.

Equally important as these key components are underlying principals not found in the old formula or House Bill 2270:

- A definable, measureable means to identify and fund suitability rather than funding an indeterminate amount of increased funding until some general concept of adequate is achieved.
- Additional resources are needed to restore the base funding for K-12 in Kansas. The state and local taxpayer dollars must be invested wisely and targeted to a predictable formula that meets adequacy. In the current budget crisis the new system cannot be solved solely by money but by a sustainable, predictable formula.
- Wisely using precious resources means we can target more funding to students, particularly those the Court has specifically identified.