

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Testimony
HB 2324
House K-12 Budget Committee
Representative Ed Trimmer, District 79
Proponent


HB 2324 is the pre-block grant formula with a five-year gradual increase in funding to eventually arrive at a \$5000 base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) level. The bill is not intended to be a complete solution. It does give us a fiscal note in regard to funding that was ordered by the court in the Montoy decision. That amount could be a part of the Gannon decision on adequacy, if and when it comes.

I believe that for the purpose of building a new funding formula, we should not throw out lessons of the past. Much of the contents of the pre-block grant formula were necessary and the result of years of fixing oversights. Even the block grant formula kept the base bill and just froze the amount of money going to schools. It did hide the base state aid amount, I believe, to create confusion about how much money was going to schools for daily operation and how much was going to schools in total, including KPERs, bonds, equalization dollars used for mill levy reduction, etc.

There are ideas expressed previously by others, with which I am in agreement and which would need to be added as we build a new formula. Some of these include:

1. Funding for all-day kindergarten and early childhood
2. Some form of buffer for schools with declining enrollment
3. A continuation of the six-year rolling average for state capital improvement state aid

I believe this bill can serve as yet another vehicle for a new formula that is based on the pre-block grant approach. It is not meant to be in competition with other ideas and would give us more flexibility as a committee if we need it down the road.

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79