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**Senate Select Committee on Education Finance
Testimony on Senate Bill 251**

Chairman Denning and Members of the Committee,

Please accept the following as testimony on behalf of the Shawnee Mission School District in support of Senate Bill 251. We appreciate the Committee's effort to craft a school finance formula and set a new path going forward to address funding stability, growth in funding, and targeted efforts to address underperforming students.

Senate Bill 251 contains several components we support:

- Establishes a school finance formula that will replace the block grant.
- A higher base per pupil, increasing in future years.
- All day kindergarten fully funded.
- Increased capital outlay and provisions allowing greater flexibility.
- Funding increases for early childhood programs
- We support the exemption of the capital outlay mill levy from local Tax Increment Finance and Industrial Revenue Bonds on all future individual projects.
- Encourage on-going assessment of the formula to determine the benefit of incorporating student achievement, successful programs and schools to use outcomes to aid in the determination of what is an adequate funding amount.

We support Senate Bill 251 to continue moving toward resolution of the current situation as the Supreme Court's June 30 deadline looms. The Shawnee Mission School District has long supported substantial changes to the school finance formula and it is our hope through the rest of the formula and funding process this session that additions be included in the final formula.

- We believe additional funding in the base is necessary.
- Increases in the base and other weightings have historically been accompanied by other increases in the formula for districts that do not rely on as many weightings. To that end, as the State moves toward satisfying adequacy, the local option budget should be increased significantly but not without limitations and full equalization. The Supreme Court in both Montoy and Gannon decisions has acknowledged over time that local funds are a component of total support for education, and when equalized create a reasonably similar education opportunity.