

March 14, 2019

Written Testimony: Opposition of HB 2395

AN ACT concerning education; relating to the instruction and financing thereof; making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019, June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, for the department of education; amending K.S.A. 72-1151, 72-1167, 72-3123, 72-3422, 72-4352, 72-4354, 72-5130, 72-5131, 72-5132, 72-5142, 72-5144, 72-5150, 72-5151, 72-5153, 72-5170, 72-5171, 72-5193, 72-5461, 72-5462, 72-6147, 72-6487 and 72-8193 and K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 79-201x, 79-32,117 and 79-4227 and repealing the existing sections.

Members of the House K-12 Budget Committee,

On behalf of the Valley Center Unified School District No. 262, we urge the members of this committee and the Kansas Legislative body to **oppose** HB 2395 as introduced on March 12, 2019. This bill is a reversal on promises of funding made through legislation that was approved last session. It is with 100% certainty the impact of this bill would be rejected by the Kansas Supreme Court as being both inequitable and inadequate in the funding of Kansas Public Schools.

Valley Center School District is located north of Wichita, Kansas. The district's enrollment is currently around 3,000 students and growing. We rank in the bottom 8% of school districts in the state for spending per pupil (counting every dollar that flows through the district's budget). This bill, as written, would further hinder our ability to serve the growing needs of our students.

For **\$69.85 (\$52.39 from state funds)** per **school day** per student we provide:

• an education	• early childhood services
• services for students with disabilities	• basic health care
• program materials	• social-emotional support
• curricular resources	• at-risk support
• transportation to/from school and activities	• facilities
• support with language acquisition	• assistance with scholarship applications
• breakfast and lunch	• utilities
• retirement contributions for staff	• access to technology
• safety and security	• after school activities and athletics
• dual credit opportunities	• support for community events
• college and career ready programs	• and so much more

Dr. Cory L. Gibson

Superintendent of Valley Center Schools – USD# 262

143 S. Meridian

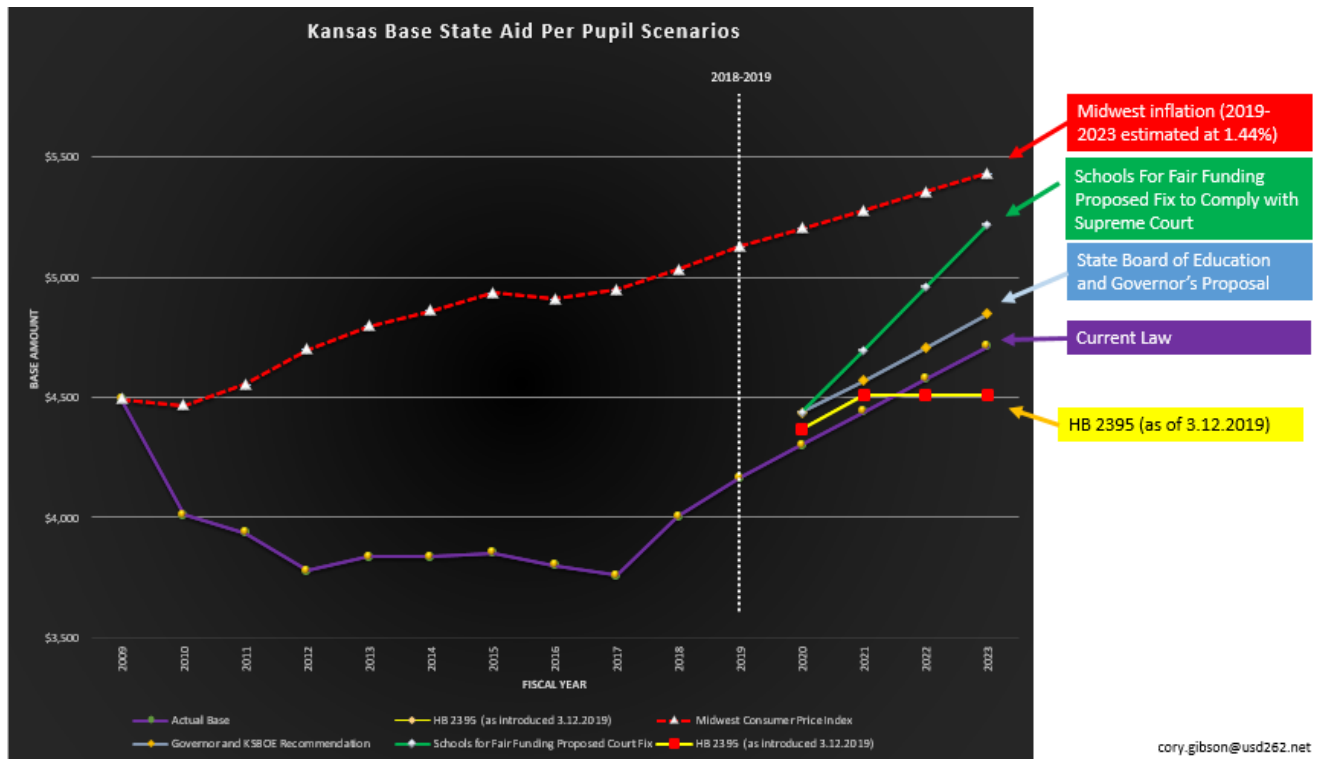
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Additional resources attributed to the base state aid would allow us to continue to offer and enhance these services, as well as, to provide the resources needed to pay our staff in a manner that recognizes the important contributions they make to our District, our Community, our State, and our Nation.

In closing, I am providing a graphic that illustrates the historical view of our state’s base funding per pupil and base amounts approved last legislative session (purple); the midwest inflation amount applied to the base state aid per pupil (red); recommended base amounts by Schools for Fair Funding (green); State Board of Education and Governor’s proposal (light blue); and the impact of enacting this bill (yellow).



We appreciate your service to our great State and encourage you to keep our students in mind when making this vital decision.

Respectfully Submitted,



OUR VISION:

To Be a Premier School District Known for Excellence in Education, Innovative Instruction, Outstanding Programs, and Dedication to Students.