K-12 Education Funding: The Clear Facts
Developed by Superintendents from the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center

Total Kansas K-12 Education Funding has risen; but most increases cannot be used for classroom instruction, for example from 2009-2013:
- Kansas Public Employees Retirement System went up $80 million resulting from 20+ years of underfunding
- Bond and Interest went up $35 million

Local school districts have had to raise local property taxes and fees to offset some of the losses in state funding.
- Average property tax increased from 47.9 mils to 51.7 mils (7.9%)
- Increased fees including textbooks, athletics and driver's education

Note: In 2008, legislators approved $4,492 but this was never funded.

**Reduction in Base State Aid per Pupil**

- District General Fund Budgets are over $200 million lower than in 2009.
- Districts have offset a portion of this decline by raising Local Option Budgets $100 million, which has raised local property taxes.
- Many districts have reached the maximum on their Local Option Budget and cannot raise more local funding.
- Further cuts to educational programs and staff may be necessary.

**National Comparison: Kansas Education Spending**
- 4th deepest cut in per pupil state funding
  - down 16.5% (2008-2014)*
- 3rd deepest cut in the nation
  - down 2.6% (2013-2014)*
- Ranked 28th for spending per pupil
  - $9,498; national average = $10,560 (2011)**

*Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (http://www.cbpp.org)
**National Center for Education Statistics

**Student Achievement**
- Kansas continues to rank above the national average on ACT and SAT.
- Kansas student National Assessment of Educational Progress scores continue to rank far above the national average.

**Total State Aid Decline per Pupil**

- $3,400
- $3,600
- $3,800
- $4,000
- $4,200

*Kansas Department of Education
Funding Directly Supporting Students

- Instructional Positions (teachers)
- Student Support (counselors, health services, speech pathologists)
- Instructional Support (library, technology, aides, curriculum support)

Non-Teaching Positions & Support

- General Administration (superintendents, central office staff)
- School Administration (building principals, office staff)
- Other Staff
  - Operations & Maintenance (utilities, custodial, security)
  - Transportation (bus drivers, vehicles, maintenance, fuel)
  - Food Service (cooks, food, food preparation)
  - Other support services (business manager and personnel)
- Others

Contact your local Southwest Kansas Superintendent or Southwest Plains Regional Service Center for more information.

http://www.swprsc.org or (800) 728-1022

Facts About Local School District Cash Reserves

- School districts, like most businesses and families, need to save for unexpected emergencies.
- School districts have used reserve funds to delay further cuts to local educational programs and staff.
- School districts have endured late state payments, have had mid-year cuts, and often have bills to pay before state funds are received.
- School districts must use reserve funds to offset funding cuts.
- The legislature has actually passed laws to encourage school districts to increase their reserves.
- Many reserve funds cannot be used for general operational expenses.
- General fund budget cuts have created the need to increase reserve funds when possible.

School Employee Increase/Decrease 2002 to 2013

| Source: Kansas State Department of Education |

School Employee Increase/Decrease 2002 to 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Instructional Support</th>
<th>Student Support</th>
<th>Other Staff</th>
<th>General Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>-2.9%</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
<td>-18.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected State Revenue Reduction Due to Tax Changes 2013 - 2018

| Data gathered by Kansas Legislative Research Department |

Projected State Revenue Reduction Due to Tax Changes 2013 - 2018

- $231.2
- $494.9
- $607.2
- $701.7
- $788.8
- $938.3

Why Are Your Southwest Kansas Superintendents Concerned?

- Future cuts in State revenue increase the potential for additional cuts in education funding.
- Past and present cuts may not be restored.
- Local districts may be forced to further increase property taxes and fees.
- Kansas may become less competitive in recruitment of teachers which could affect quality of education available in its communities.