

KANSAS SCHOOL FUNDING



Funding for the future.

Introduction

Governor Brownback is inviting comment on the development of a new school funding formula in Kansas. Gov. Brownback is asking people to submit their comments by Nov. 30 to StudentsFirst@ks.gov.

This power point and other resources were developed to provide a quick overview and way to gather information to submit to the governor.

WHAT WE KNOW

- **2015:** Legislature repealed 1992 school finance formula.
 - School finance formula replaced with block grant system for two years.
- **2017:** Block grant system expires.
- **Nov. 30, 2016:** Deadline to submit K-12 funding system input to Governor Brownback through StudentsFirst@ks.gov

In 2015, the Kansas legislature voted to repeal the 1992 school finance formula citing the complexity and unpredictability of the formula.

In its place, the legislature instituted a block grant funding system. This system froze funding for two years while a new funding formula could be developed.

This block grant system will expire in 2017 and Governor Brownback has invited public input into the development of a new school funding mechanism.



KANSAS LEADS THE WORLD IN THE SUCCESS OF EACH STUDENT.

Outcomes for measuring progress

- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study focused on career Interest
- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary completion/attendance
- Social/emotional growth measured locally

Before we launch into discussions about how we believe school funding should be organized, it's important to understand where Kansas K-12 education is headed.

In October 2015, based on input from Kansans across the state, the Kansas State Board of Education announced its new vision for Kansas education: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

This new vision calls for a review of the current education system to ensure it is addressing the needs of the whole child.

In order to measure the state's progress towards achieving this vision, schools are being asked to focus on five outcome measures:

- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study focused on the student's career interest
- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary completion/attendance
- Social/emotional growth measured locally

DEFINING SUCCESS

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- **Academic** preparation,
- **Cognitive** preparation,
- **Technical** skills,
- **Employability** skills and
- **Civic** engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Within its discussions with the citizens of Kansas about what they want in their state education system, the board adopted this definition of a successful high school graduate.

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FUNDING FORMULA COMPONENTS 1992-2015

1. General operating funds

- Based on a “weighted” per-pupil formula
- Adjusted district’s enrollment based on cost factors
i.e. low socio-economic status, special needs, low total enrollment in the district.

The 1992 School Finance Formula included three general components. The first was General Operating Funds

The formula was based on a “weighted” per-pupil count.

This count was a way to adjust the district’s enrollment number based on cost factors, i.e. low socio-economic status, special needs, low total enrollment in the district. Some students require additional resources to educate.

FUNDING FORMULA COMPONENTS 1992-2015

1. General operating funds

2. Local Option Budgets (LOB)

(Supplemental general state aid)

- Provides districts the option to levy additional taxes to enhance general operating fund in order to provide additional programs and services.

The second major component was the Local Option Budget (LOB), referred to as Supplemental General Fund Aid.

Provides districts the option to levy additional taxes (up to 33%) to enhance general operating fund in order to provide additional programs and services.

A statewide property tax of 20 mills was set to provide some of the funding.



FUNDING FORMULA COMPONENTS 1992-2015

1. General operating funds
2. Local Option Budgets (LOB)
- 3. Equalization formulas**
 - Ensure property tax levies charged at local levels for LOBs, capital outlay funds and debt service funds are comparable to one another – regardless of district's wealth.

A third very important part of the last school finance formula were the Equalization formulas.

Provided additional state aide to ensure funds raised through property tax levies charged at local levels for LOBs, capital outlay funds and debt service funds were comparable to one another – regardless of district's wealth.

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD FORMULA?

Some said...

- We didn't fund it enough.
- It was too complicated.
- It didn't give enough local flexibility.
- It didn't provide stable funding for planning.
- There wasn't enough emphasis on money in the classroom.
- There was no predictability of yearly costs for the state.
- There wasn't enough accountability built into the system.
- ...and many other reasons.

What was wrong with the old funding formula?

This is an endless topic of debate – these are a few examples.

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- ...and many other reasons.

Because the block grants go away and we have to write a new finance formula to support Kansas public education, we have three questions to discuss. We will then compile the answers and send them to the governor.

DISCUSSION #1

What will it take financially for Kansas to lead the world in the success of each student?

- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study focused on the student's career interest
- High school graduation rates
- Postsecondary completion/attendance
- Social/emotional growth measured locally

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills and civic engagement to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Thinking about Kansas K-12 education, the board's five outcomes and its definition of a successful high school student, what will it take financially for Kansas to lead the world in the success of each student?



DISCUSSION #2

Are there other considerations to a school finance formula that should be considered by the legislature?

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DISCUSSION #3

If your group had to prioritize three of your items for consideration, what would they be?

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NEXT STEPS

Submit recommendations to
StudentsFirst@ks.gov
cc: schoolfundinginput@kasb.org
by November 30, 2016

A summary of your comments and recommendations will be emailed to the Governor.

They will also be shared with the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas State Department of Education and the United School Administrators | Kansas.

Thank you!