

**Senate Education Committee
Testimony on Senate Bill 260
January 19, 2012
Presented by Linda Aldridge, Ed.D.
Representing the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
(KASEA)
and
Topeka Public Schools, USD 501**

The Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA) and Topeka Public Schools are proponents of SB 260 for the following reasons.

- 1) SB 260 amends K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-978, the statute relating special education state aid, eliminating implementation of an existing section designed to establish minimum and maximum state aid for special education that can be received by a district, cooperative, or interlocal. This section would go into effect in the 2012-13 school year.
- 2) Unless amended, most districts, cooperatives, and interlocals will lose an estimated \$90/teacher in special education categorical aid.
- 3) Those few districts that gain additional funds are likely to see a decrease the following year, when their average cost/special education student rises.
- 4) Deletion of the "minimum/maximum" section restores the process for disbursement of special education state aid to its previous formula, thus eliminating funding shifts that are difficult to predict and unlikely to be sustained over time.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important issue. If you wish further information from KASEA or from the Topeka Public Schools, I can be reached at: laldrid@topeka.k12.ks.us or (785) 295-3089.

Linda Aldridge, Ed.D.
1-19-12
Attach. 7a