

Amendments to the 2015 Special Committee on K-12 Student Success Report - Proposed by Senator Hensley

**General**

A new school funding mechanism should:

- Focus on each student, understanding that students have different needs and will require varying levels of support to achieve success;
- Include self-adjustments to changing characteristics without a need for annual legislative adjustments;
- Be equitable so that school districts have reasonably equal access to substantially similar educational opportunity through similar tax effort;

**Accountability and Assessments**

*State Level*

- ~~The State should provide funding for each student to take the ACT exam.~~
- An exam aligned with the Rose capacities should be developed. ~~by an objective third party with no connection to the State Department of Education or the Federal Department of Education.~~

*District Level*

School districts should:

- Arrange for all students to take the ACT exam;

(over)

## At Risk Funding

- ~~At risk funding should be based directly upon a student's ability to learn, rather than the poverty level of the student.~~
- ~~Alternatively, any poverty measure for at risk funding should be based upon information provided by the Kansas Department of Revenue and the Kansas Department of Labor and should be available for audit. All applications by parents or guardians for a school district to receive at risk funding should be available for audit.~~
- Poverty is a key criteria but certainly not the sole factor in determining the at risk needs of students. The following other criteria should be included in making that determination: Not working on grade level; not meeting the requirements necessary for promotion to the next grade or for graduation from high school; high rate of absenteeism; repeated suspensions and expulsions from school; homeless and/or migrant; identified as an English Language Learner; and non-proficient on state assessments.

## Bonding by Local School Districts

- ~~A special committee of the legislature should be created to oversee and approve any bond issue before the issuance is placed on a ballot before local voters.~~
- The retention of a school funding mechanism that provides state dollars to assist property poor school districts in their efforts to finance new and remodeled facilities is a cornerstone piece of an equitable school finance system.