

SB 251 Opponent testimony – in person  
 Senate Select Committee on School Funding  
 Proposed new school funding formula  
 Dave Trabert - President  
 May 23, 2017



Chairman Denning and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony on the calculation of Base State Aid Per Pupil in SB 251.

Kansas Legislative Research confirms that the methodology used to calculate the amount per pupil was based on a simple average of spending per pupil for the 41 selected districts. That simple average had gross State and Local spending per-pupil at \$5,712, resulting in BSAPP of \$4,080 (Gross divided by 1.4).

The Department of Education always reports spending per-pupil on a weighted average, which is also universal common practice. The weighted average gross spending for those districts is \$5,539 per-pupil and dividing that by 1.4 sets minimum Base State Aid Per Pupil at \$3,956.

Reasonably Calculated BSAPP Saves \$83 Million Per Year		
Description	Simple Average	Weighted Average
Gross State & Local Spending	\$ 5,712	\$ 5,539
State adjustment	÷ 1.4	÷ 1.4
Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$ 4,080	\$ 3,956
Weighted Enrollment	671,500	671,500
Cost of Base State Aid (millions)	\$ 2,739.6	\$ 2,656.5
Excess Cost (millions)	\$ 83.1	

*Source: Kansas Legislative Research*

Accordingly, we propose amending SB 251 to set FY 2018 Base State Aid Per Pupil at \$3,952 and increase it for inflation for FY 2019. Doing so would fulfill the Court’s requirement that funding be reasonably calculated and prevent Kansas from being overtaxed by roughly \$83 million per year.

Should the Committee decline to do so, we recommend amending the bill to at least establish that the math only requires BSAPP of \$3,956 and spending above that level is voluntary on the part of the Legislature.

A copy of our calculation is attached for your consideration.

USD	USD Name	County Name	School Year	Net Spend Per KLRD	Weighted FTE per KLRD	Per Pupil
109	Republic County	Republic	2016	3,558,332	614.7	5,788.73
110	Thunder Ridge Schools	Phillips	2016	1,850,846	358.6	5,161.31
113	Prairie Hills	Nemaha	2016	7,389,570	1300.1	5,683.85
212	Northern Valley	Norton	2016	1,663,603	302.2	5,504.97
223	Barnes	Washington	2016	2,890,330	458.4	6,305.26
229	Blue Valley	Johnson	2016	134,632,082	22819.8	5,899.79
231	Gardner Edgerton	Johnson	2016	31,244,283	6270.3	4,982.90
232	De Soto	Johnson	2016	38,811,853	7127.8	5,445.14
235	Uniontown	Bourbon	2016	3,523,905	587.5	5,998.14
239	North Ottawa County	Ottawa	2016	4,622,340	767.9	6,019.46
241	Wallace County Schools	Wallace	2016	1,921,694	292.7	6,565.40
249	Frontenac Public Schools	Crawford	2016	6,101,839	1098.1	5,556.72
268	Cheney	Sedgwick	2016	5,240,967	886.6	5,911.31
272	Waconda	Mitchell	2016	2,313,472	411.8	5,617.95
275	Triplains	Logan	2016	863,417	145.2	5,946.40
282	West Elk	Elk	2016	2,802,729	470.5	5,956.92
298	Lincoln	Lincoln	2016	2,833,171	480.5	5,896.30
305	Salina	Saline	2016	46,378,537	9053.4	5,122.78
323	Rock Creek	Pottawatomie	2016	6,036,555	1106.9	5,453.57
332	Cunningham	Kingman	2016	1,549,772	269.2	5,756.95
336	Holton	Jackson	2016	7,221,920	1274.1	5,668.25
346	Jayhawk	Linn	2016	4,222,985	745.4	5,665.39
361	Chaparral Schools	Harper	2016	6,454,789	1095.4	5,892.63
366	Woodson	Woodson	2016	3,475,425	596.7	5,824.41
371	Montezuma	Gray	2016	1,992,555	331.1	6,017.99
372	Silver Lake	Shawnee	2016	4,903,381	771.8	6,353.18
376	Sterling	Rice	2016	3,960,972	651.9	6,076.04
380	Vermillion	Marshall	2016	3,903,645	636	6,137.81
383	Manhattan-Ogden	Riley	2016	35,113,087	6956.5	5,047.52
388	Ellis	Ellis	2016	2,900,892	522.8	5,548.76
389	Eureka	Greenwood	2016	4,976,803	859.3	5,791.69
390	Hamilton	Greenwood	2016	908,324	172.2	5,274.82
405	Lyons	Rice	2016	6,381,059	1082.4	5,895.29
413	Chanute Public Schools	Neosho	2016	12,037,844	2293.2	5,249.37
415	Hiawatha	Brown	2016	6,016,243	1128.6	5,330.71
440	Halstead	Harvey	2016	5,610,952	927.8	6,047.59
445	Coffeyville	Montgomery	2016	11,794,217	2314.8	5,095.13
446	Independence	Montgomery	2016	12,963,695	2551.1	5,081.61
460	Hesston	Harvey	2016	5,637,377	910.6	6,190.84
503	Parsons	Labette	2016	8,827,451	1670.5	5,284.32
504	Oswego	Labette	2016	3,793,502	618.2	6,136.37
				459,326,415	82,933	5,538.55
				weighted average		3,956.11
						5,711.79
				simple average		4,079.85

Note: Per Pupil amounts may vary from the schedule prepared by KLRD by a tiny amount because Weighted FTE in this schedule come from a PDF, showing enrollment rounded to the nearest tenth; the actual KLRD enrollment was not rounded.