



Testimony to Senate Ways & Means Committee
SB 499 School District Procurement
March 14, 2016
Dave Trabert, President

Chairman Masterson and members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 499, which we believe would save significant money for school districts that can be put to better use in Instruction.

Large per-pupil spending differences exist across the cost centers contemplated in the bill, even among districts of similar size. The difference is not entirely due to commodity purchases but testimony provided to the K-12 Efficiency and Student Achievement Commission confirmed that districts often choose to pay a higher than necessary price for commodities – and regardless of the rationale, doing so consciously diverts funding that could otherwise be used for Instruction.

2015 Spending Per-Pupil by FTE Enrollment Category - w/o Special Education						
Cost Center	<500	500-999	1,000-1,999	2,000-4,999	5,000-9,999	over 10,000
Administration						
Low	880	800	896	914	774	1,020
Median	2,006	1,480	1,190	1,178	1,143	1,303
High	4,317	2,214	1,626	1,452	1,557	1,878
Oper. & Maint.						
Low	67	660	828	586	842	878
Median	1,523	1,365	1,172	1,087	901	1,030
High	3,209	1,848	1,644	1,663	1,409	1,519
Transportation						
Low	276	176	171	129	157	84
Median	735	473	362	362	303	229
High	1,757	1,085	883	529	362	637
Food Service						
Low	337	318	418	449	382	455
Median	894	694	608	621	551	589
High	1,630	1,003	868	846	776	858

Source: KSDE, Comparative Performance & Fiscal System. Some small spending amounts (0.3% of total) are not listed in CPFS so the variances may be very slightly different than actual. Capital expenditures are removed from allocations to operating cost centers.

We believe the bill could produce even greater opportunities with the following enhancements:

1. Require that purchasing opportunities and requirements herein are provided to each local school board member.
2. Add categories for Administration, Student and Staff Support and Instruction.
3. Specify that services are included and that outsourcing of services should be priced by Department of Administration.
4. Specify that commodities, supplies, equipment and services are included throughout the school system. As the bill reads, it could exclude buses, curriculum (there are only a handful of vendors; make them provide their best price to all districts), nursing service, food service (the people preparing and serving food), classroom supplies and equipment, etc.
5. Require that exercise of all preferred bids let under Section 2(c) be published prominently on each district's web site.

We support SB 499 and urge you to recommend it favorably.