

SENATE BILL No. 134

By Committee on Education

1-25

AN ACT providing for a professional evaluation of school district finance.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The state board of education shall provide for a professional evaluation of school district finance to determine the per pupil cost of a suitable education for Kansas children. The evaluation shall include a thorough study of the school district finance and quality performance act with the objective of addressing inadequacies and inequities inherent in the act. In addition the evaluation shall address the following objectives:

(1) A determination of the funding needed to provide a suitable education in typical K-12 schools of various sizes and locations;

(2) a determination of the additional support needed for special education, at-risk, limited English proficient pupils and pupils impacted by other special circumstances;

(3) a determination of funding adjustments necessary to ensure comparable purchasing power for all districts, regardless of size or location; and

(4) a determination of an appropriate annual adjustment for inflation.

(b) In addressing the objectives of the evaluation as specified in subsection (a), consideration shall be given to:

(1) The cost of providing comparable opportunities in the state's small rural schools as well as the larger, more urban schools, including differences in transportation needs resulting from population sparsity as well as differences in annual operating costs;

(2) the cost of providing suitable opportunities in elementary, middle and high schools;

(3) the additional costs of providing special programming opportunities, including vocational education programs;

(4) the additional cost associated with educating at-risk children and those with limited English proficiency;

(5) the additional cost associated with meeting the needs of pupils with disabilities; and

(6) the geographic variations in costs of personnel, materials, supplies and equipment and other fixed costs so that districts across the state are afforded comparable purchasing power.

1 (c) The state board of education shall secure consultant services to
2 conduct the professional evaluation of school district finance required by
3 this section and provide for a presentation to the governor and the leg-
4 islature of the findings of the evaluation along with recommendations for
5 components of a school district finance plan that will fulfill the state's
6 obligation to provide a suitable education for Kansas children. The find-
7 ings of the evaluation and recommendations shall be presented to the
8 governor and the legislature at the beginning of the 2002 legislative
9 session.

10 (d) For the purpose of the professional evaluation of school district
11 finance, the term "suitable education" means a curricular program con-
12 sisting of the subjects and courses required under the provisions of K.S.A.
13 72-1101, 72-1103 and 72-1117, and amendments thereto, the courses in
14 foreign language, fine arts and physical education required to qualify for
15 a state scholarship under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-6810 through 72-
16 6816, and amendments thereto, and the courses included in the precol-
17 lege curriculum prescribed by the board of regents under the provisions
18 of K.S.A. 76-717, and amendments thereto.

19 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
20 publication in the Kansas register.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43