

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on February 4, 1998 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Cindy Empson - Excused

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Wulfkuhle, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jane Rhys, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Josie Torrez, Families Together, Inc.
Sue Chase, Kansas National Education Association
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards
Gerry Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas
Scott Hill, Kansas Association of School Boards
Jackie Oakes, Schools for Quality Education
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Onan Burnett, U.S.D. 500 & 501
Robert Vancrum, Blue Valley School District

Others attending: See attached list

Hearings on **HB 2597 - special education services, state aid at 85% of excess costs for provisions**, were opened.

Jane Rhys, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill. Special education costs are increasing and the Federal government has mandated more services to be provided. Without funding at a higher costs it will be difficult to provide adequate services. (Attachment 1)

Josie Torrez, Families Together, Inc., appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill. She was concerned that parents are not filling out the medicaid reimbursement forms so that Kansas schools would be able to receive more than the \$1.3 million it currently does. (Attachment 2)

Sue Chase, Kansas National Education Association, appeared before the committee in support of the bill but would prefer that the state fund all of special education. (Attachment 3)

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared before the committee as an opponent of the bill. He was concerned that capping the states share of funding special education at 85% would leave the school districts short of funding. A member of the Kansas Association of School Boards was in Washington urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40% of the cost of special education. (Attachment 4)

Hearings on **HB 2507** were closed.

Hearings on **HB 2650 - school district finance, transportation weighting**, were opened.

Scott Hill, Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared before the committee as the sponsor of the bill. He explained that the Board is concerned about the safety of children who walk to school and this bill would not mandate districts to transport students but reimburse them for those that live 2.5 miles from home to school. (Attachment 5)

Jackie Oakes, Schools for Quality Education, appeared before the committee in support of the bill. She reminded the committee that the bill must be funded in order for schools to be able to offer the transportation. (Attachment 6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on February 4, 1998.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, appeared before the committee in support of the bill. She stated that Wichita currently spends \$2.7 million on transportation and they don't reach all the students that need rides. They focus primarily on those that live in hazardous routes. (Attachment 7)

Onan Burnett, U.S.D. 500 & 501, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill. He is concerned with the safety of children walking to school and the fact that it is hard for parents to transport their children because of their work schedule. (Attachment 8)

Gerry Henderson, United School Administrators of Kansas, appeared before the committee also in support of the bill. He believes that children shouldn't have to worry about the dangers of traveling to school. (Attachment 9)

Robert Vancrum, Blue Valley School District, appeared before the committee as a proponent. He agreed that school districts should receive reimbursement for the transportation of students to school. (Attachment 10)

Hearings on HB 2650 were closed.

Hearings on HCR 5029 - resolution memorializing Congress to increase funding authorized by IDEA, were opened.

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared before the committee in strong support of the proposed bill. The Board believes that since the government has set mandates on special education they should follow through and fund special education at 40% of the cost. (Attachment 11)

Hearings on HCR 5029 were closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 1998.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

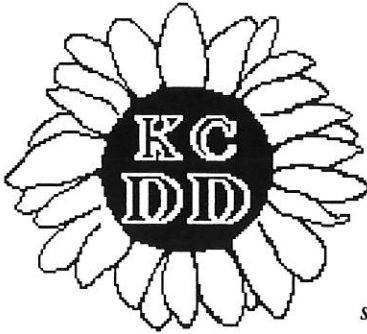
DATE: February 4, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Diane Gjerstad	USD 259
Bob Vancouver	USD 229
JOHN KOEPKE	KASB
Juan Burnett	USD 500 [#] - 501 [#]
Jim Youvelly	USD #512
Ann Turkes	DOB
Sue Chase	KNEA
Andy Tompkins	KSDE
Michelle Heydon	KAPS
Pat Lehman	USD - 233
Danielle Kloe	Governor's Office
Stacey Farmer	KASB
GERALD HONPERSON	USA/KS
Josie Torres	Families Together, Inc.
Jane Rhyon	KC.DD
Dale H. Linn	BSDB
Scott Hill	KSBE
Pelica Cairns	WU Applied Studies
Cause Invergood	Washburn University

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: Feb. 4, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Heather Hall	Washburn University
Kent Evans	Washburn University
Jacquie Dales	SQK



Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

BILL GRAVES, Governor

TOM ROSE, Chairperson

JANE RHYS, Ph. D., Executive Director

Docking State Off. Bldg., Room 141, 915 Harrison

Topeka, KS 66612-1570

Phone (785) 296-2608, FAX (785) 296-2861

"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 4, 1996

Testimony in Regard to HB 2597 SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES, STATE AID AT 85% OF EXCESS COST.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am appearing today on behalf of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities in support of HB 2597.

The Kansas Council is a federally mandated, federally funded council composed of individuals who are appointed by the Governor. At least half of the membership is composed of individuals who are persons with developmental disabilities or their immediate relatives. We also have representatives of the major agencies who provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Our mission is to advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, to see that they have choices in life.

Education is one of the best investments that Kansas can make in its future. Children who are educated grow up to become productive, tax paying citizens. Kansas has low unemployment and a good economy now, in part, because we provided funds for education in past years. Funding education is becoming more rather than less important because there are fewer jobs that do not require an education. This is true both for children who do not have disabilities, as well as for those who have disabilities.

Special education costs are increasing due to several factors, beginning with changes in federal law. Expanded mandates over the past few years include: services for children with disabilities aged three and four; the provision of assistive technology devices; and two new categories of disability, autism and traumatic brain injury. Other reasons for the increasing costs of special education are new technology and medical advances. We are seeing many more children born prematurely, with serious diseases or birth

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 1

defects, and they are surviving. In addition, there are many children with serious illnesses who live much longer than they did 30, 20 even 10 years ago. Many of these children will require special education and related services in order to learn and to become successful adults.

In addition, the state closed two state hospitals last year and has been actively bringing children out of institutions since 1991. We applaud the direction in which Kansas is moving but also recognize that many of these students are expensive to educate.

Education, after food and shelter, is one of the most valuable tools we can give our children. Education is not cheap, however, neither is welfare, social security disability income, or Medicaid. If we do not spend money now, to educate these children, we will spend far more when they reach adulthood, cannot find employment, and end up on welfare, in state hospitals, or in state prisons. The Governor's proposed budget would fund special education at **85** percent of excess costs, a slight increase from the estimated **80** per cent in FY 1998. This includes an initial projection of between \$16 - \$20 million dollars in Medicaid reimbursement for schools. However, through 12/31/97 only \$1,334,954.70 of the projected \$16 - \$20 million has been collected.

Some obstacles to collection of these funds include:

- Referral from a primary care provider is required every six months;
- Some parents are not forthcoming with permission to bill Medicaid (parental permission is required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and
- Documentation of a medical diagnosis is required in the child's file (parents must give permission for schools to contact physicians and some physicians may not respond quickly).

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Education have been working with other groups to overcome these barriers and they share a commitment to obtain all possible funding for these programs. However, such funding is not equal for every district. Some districts have high percentages of children who are Medicaid eligible and in some areas parents are more willing to cooperate and permit schools to access their child's Medicaid funds. However these percentages and numbers of parents vary across districts so everyone does not receive 85% funding of excess costs.

We would urge you to consider House Bill 2597 which funds the excess costs of special education and related services at 85% without including the Medicaid reimbursement, thus ensuring that we do not depend upon funds which schools may, or may not, be able to access.

Schools have increases in the costs of books and other supplies, food, staff salaries, utilities, and other expenses. Decreasing services to students with disabilities is not an option because these are federally mandated services. So schools must take money out of their general education budgets to pay for these services thus creating a decrease in overall funding for education services.

In this year when Kansas is fortunate to have additional funds available, we ask that some of these dollars be invested in our children, the future of Kansas. We ask that you pass House Bill 2597 which would fund each district at 85% of excess costs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jane Rhys, Ph. D.
Executive Director
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
Docking State Office Building, Room 141
Topeka, KS 66612-1570
913 296-2608
E-Mail jrhys@idir.net

Families Together, Inc.

Parent Training & Information Centers for Kansas

Date: February 4, 1998
To: House Education Committee
From: Josie Torrez, Families Together, Inc.
Re: HB 2597 Special Education Services

My name is Josie Torrez. My husband and I are the parents of two sons. Chris is 15 and Joey is 12. Joey has autism and receives special education services in middle school. I represent Families Together, Inc. in Topeka. We are a statewide organization that assists parents in Kansas that have a son or daughter with a disability. We have four parent centers in Kansas; our administrative center in Wichita, Garden City, Topeka and our newly opened center in Kansas City. The Kansas City Center assists families in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties with the opportunity for personal and individual assistance in that populated area of the state. The majority of our staff are parents or family members of young people with disabilities.

In the past few years, the federal law has expanded special education by adding the following categories - preschool services to students with disabilities age 3 to 5, two new categories of disability (autism and traumatic brain injury) and the provision of assistive technology devices. In addition, many children born prematurely, and those with

Assisting Parents and Their Sons & Daughters with Disabilities

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 2

s.net/-family

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disabilities, who 10 or 20 years ago would have died, are living due to medical technology. Many of these children require special education services.

We appreciate the Governor's recommendation of \$12 million to special education. This will increase special education funding to 85% from 83% of excess costs.

This increase (85%) includes Medicaid reimbursement to school districts for students that are medicaid eligible and also receive special education services. The Medicaid reimbursement estimation was to be around \$16 million, but Kansas schools districts have only received a little over \$1.3 million. The Medicaid Task Force has been meeting since last fall and are working together to remedy this situation. We are trying to come up with solutions to some of the barriers being identified by the group and are networking with each other on some training ideas (who and when to train, developing handout materials, etc.). The first training will be scheduled at the end of March.

We ask your passage of HB 2597 which will fund the excess cost of special education services at 85% in each school district without the Medicaid reimbursement. We recommend the legislature reconsider the inclusion of Medicaid dollars next legislative session at which time the "bugs" will have been worked out.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1604

October 28, 1997

Dear Josie:

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns regarding continued funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

As you may know, the federal government has never lived up to its responsibilities under IDEA. The legislation calls for the federal government to provide 40 percent of the resources for the IDEA's implementation, but in recent years federal participation has dipped to below 10 percent. That is not acceptable.

The amount of federal funding needs to be commensurate with the level of federal control. That is why the first piece of legislation offered by the Senate majority this year, S.1, has a Title dedicated to redressing the current imbalance. Title Four of that legislation would increase annual authorizations under IDEA from \$4.1 billion in fiscal year 1998 to \$5.6 billion in FY 1999, \$7.1 billion in FY 2000, \$8.6 billion in FY 2001, \$10.1 billion in FY 2002, \$11.6 billion in FY 2003 and \$13.1 billion in FY 2004--this would more than triple the authorization for IDEA in seven years.

I support this approach so long as we agree on appropriate offsets to maintain progress towards a balanced budget. Then we must reform IDEA to provide for greater flexibility on the part of schools and local districts and to reduce incentives for costly unproductive litigation in the system.

As we go about the process of re-authorizing IDEA we must keep these principles in mind: match the level of federal commitment to the level of federal control [more of the former, less of the latter] and maintain our progress toward a balanced budget. That is what we must do to make good on the promise of education for every American child.

October 28, 1997

Page 2

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns with me. They will be an important guide as this process unfolds. Please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and vertical strokes, positioned above the printed name.

Sam Brownback
United States Senator

SB:gc

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

October 30, 1997

Ms. Ines Torrez
122 ...
101 ...

Dear Ms. Torrez:

Thanks for your thoughtful letter regarding your son and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). I appreciate hearing your perspective on this important issue.

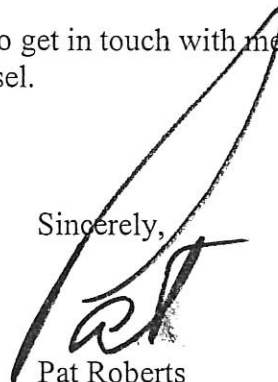
I support efforts to expand and improve programs that benefit individuals with disabilities. As you know, IDEA was signed into law on May 14, 1997 as P.L. 105-17. I voted for IDEA re-authorization in the Senate, which passed by a 98-1 vote and passed the House by a vote of 420-3. This law is geared to help disabled children learn by requiring a "maintenance of effort" on the part of states to ensure that more dollars will actually go to students in the classroom.

S. 1061, the FY '98 appropriations bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education, passed the Senate on September 11 by a vote of 92-8. I supported this bill that includes nearly \$5 billion for special education, an increase of over \$922 million from FY '97 funding. A House-Senate conference committee is currently meeting to iron out the differences between the two bills. Please rest assured I will keep your support of IDEA funding in mind when the final conference report comes before the Senate for a vote.

Again, thanks for taking the time to get in touch with me on this important issue. I welcome your continued advice and counsel.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts

PR:aw



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 W. 10TH STREET / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Susan Chase Testimony Before
House Education Committee
Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Susan Chase and I represent the Kansas National Education Association. I am here to speak in favor of HB 2597.

KNEA recognizes the increasing burden special education is putting on school districts. In fact, nationwide school districts are spending an increasing percentage of their budgets on special education. We cannot continue to allow special education costs to erode the general funds of schools. School districts do not have much flexibility in how or what they spend on special education, so when those costs increase they must take the money from somewhere else. Many districts have had to cut back on programs for general education students to pay for the costs of special education students.

KNEA's resolution on special education funding promotes full state funding. While this bill does not provide that amount it does begin to move us toward that goal. By fixing the percentage in law, schools will have a guaranteed level of funding. This will hopefully ensure an end to the erosion of special education funding. It is in this light that we promote the inclusion of the formula using 85% in law.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We urge this committee to pass this bill out favorably.

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 3



TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

DATE: February 4, 1998

Re: **Testimony on H.B. 2597-Special Education Funding**

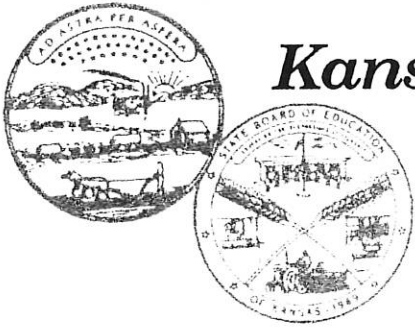
Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards, we wish to express our opposition to the thrust of H.B. 2597, which would have the effect of capping the state share of special education funding at 85% of the "excess cost" calculation for provision of this mandated program to Kansas children with special needs. It is most regrettable that the legislature is considering this proposal to back down from the historic commitment to fund this aid at the 100% level at this time.

On numerous occasions over the years, we have pointed out to the Kansas legislature that failure to fund special education aid at the full excess cost figure only means that those costs will simply be made up by transfers from the general fund of local school districts, since local school districts must still meet all of the terms of this mandated program. Utilizing transfers from the general fund of local districts simply diminishes the availability of funds to provide education services to children in regular education programs.

Since the passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, it has been our position, supported by legislative action at the time, that the full excess cost of providing special education services should be reimbursed to local school districts by the state. It is somewhat ironic that at a hearing later today on H.C.R. 5029, you will be asked to support a resolution encouraging the United States Congress to live up to its unfulfilled promise to fund 40% of the cost of special education at the federal level as a part of the federal mandate.

We hope that both the federal and state levels of government will reconsider their position on this issue and provide appropriate funding for children with special needs at the level consistent with their historic commitments. We would urge your defeat of H.B. 2597 in its present form. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns on this issue and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.



Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building
 120 S.E. 10th Avenue
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

(913) 296-3203
 FAX (913) 296-7933

Home Page: <http://www.ksbe.state.ks.us>

Mildred McMillon District 1	Bill Wagnon District 4	Scott Hill District 6	Mary Douglass Brown District 8
Linda Holloway District 2	I. B. "Sonny" Rundell District 5	Wanda Morrison District 7	Mandy Specht District 9
Kevin P. Gilmore District 3			Steve E. Abrams District 10

February 4, 1998

TO: House Education Committee

FROM: Kansas State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1998 House Bill 2650

My name is Scott Hill, Legislative Coordinator of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

House Bill 2650 has the effect of reducing the mileage limitation for students eligible for state transportation aid by .5 mile per year for the next three years or from 2.5 miles to 1.0 mile.

The State Board of Education is concerned about the safety of children, particularly elementary children, who must walk to school. Some school districts do not have sidewalks, children have to cross busy streets and highways, and walk through unsafe neighborhoods. In addition, there are many low income families (one out of four students in Kansas are eligible for free lunches) for which transporting their children to and from school results in a major hardship for the family.

Listed below is a table which provides the estimated costs for lowering the transportation mileage rate. The number of students that would be eligible for reimbursement was based upon survey responses from each school district.

Mileage	No. of Students	Estimated State Cost
2.5 to 2.0	24,850	\$ 6,212,500
2.0 to 1.5	27,576	\$ 6,894,000
1.5 to 1.0	38,388	\$ 9,597,000

(over)

House Education
 2-4-98
 Attachment 5

House Bill 2650 is not a mandate for school districts to transport students but provides reimbursement for boards of education that choose to transport students living less than 2.5 miles from home to school. Currently, there are many districts that transport student living less than 2.5 miles from home to school at the school district's expenses. As a general rule, this money comes from the general and supplemental general funds which has the effect of reducing dollars available for instructional purposes. The decision to transport students who live less than 2.5 miles from home to school is based upon the community and their desire for a safe environment for their children.

The State Board of Education supports 1998 House Bill 2650 and believes it would have a positive effect on making all children safer as they travel to and from school.



Schools for Quality Education

Bluemont Hall Manhattan, KS 66506 (813) 532-5886

February 4, 1998

To: House Education Committee

Subject: HB 2650 -- school district finance, transportation weighting

From: Schools For Quality Education

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Jacque Oakes, representing Schools for Quality Education, an organization of 108 small school districts.

We appear in favor of HB 2650 which would lower the transportation miles from 2.5 miles to 1 mile over the next three years.

There is always a concern about child safety; and this would be an assurance to the district and to the parents that a child would arrive safely at the school building doors.

We do want to underline that there are added costs involved in lowering these miles. Two miles in 1998-99 would cost \$6.2 million; one and a half miles in 1999-2000, \$6.9 million; and one mile in 2000-2001, \$9.6 million. SQE would ask that you keep in mind that this bill needs to be funded, because without funding the results could be a dilution of the transportation funds.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of HB 2650.

"Rural is Quality"

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 6

House Education Committee
Rep. O'Neal, chairman
Testimony on HB 2650

February 4, 1998
Submitted by: Diane Gjerstad
Wichita Public Schools

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

H.B. 2650 is for families.

Wichita Public Schools provides safe, efficient transportation for 22,000 students daily riding on 420 buses. Annually over 7.5 million miles of service is provided.

This service is for families--the ease of mind that their son or daughter has arrived safely at school and home is priceless.

Today the school transportation formula is not reflective of the needs of families in the '90's. Back in the early sixties the 2.5-mile threshold was established. Today our families, neighborhoods and jobs have all changed. But not the 2.5-mile funding level. It is a relic not appropriate for today's world.

Parents who move into Wichita from other states are shocked that transportation is generally not provided for student living within a 2.5 miles radius of their school. Every fall a barrage of angry phone calls are logged into the transportation department and superintendent's office. Parents simply do not understand why funding is not provided for less the 2.5 miles.

Our community's economic base is manufacturing. Traditionally plant workers are bound by specific shift hours (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or 3:30 to midnight). Lack of transportation to and from school is a tremendous burden on families.

Walking past bars, drug and crime infested areas. No parent wants a child exposed to the potential danger. The railroad merger has exasperated this problem in Wichita. 855 children are effected by the increased rail traffic on the Union Pacific. Compounded by UP's lease of Burlington Northern tracks to catch up with the logjam they faced this fall.

Our board spends an additional \$1.6M primarily for summer school, hazardous routes. Special education transportation is funded at 80%; our portion left is \$1.12M. Together \$2.7M in local funds are transferred to transportation. That could buy 77 teachers.

We urge you to past this bill. Every dollar spent for this effort directly helps a family.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Testimony Before House Education Committee
February 4, 1998 -- 3:30 p.m.
by Onan Burnett**

I'm Onan Burnett, representing USD 501, testifying in support of HB 2650. There are several areas of concern which warrant support:

1. Safety for Kids
 - They have to cross major thoroughfares with high density traffic.
 - Possible crimes could be committed against children.
 - There are certain urban areas which are high incident drug areas.

2. With single parents, or both parents working, it is impossible to bring kids to school at an hour that is acceptable with the school district. The working hours and school hours are different.

Attached is another possible alternative on the transportation of students K-3 or K-5.

Kansas State Department of Education

Home Page: <http://www.ksbe.state.ks.us>

120 S.E. 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

February 17, 1997

TO: Representative Rocky Nichols

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Transportation

This memorandum is written in response to your inquiry concerning the potential cost of transporting students who live less than 2.5 miles from home to school.

In preparing our response, we conducted a survey last fall of all 304 school districts to obtain the estimated number of students that would be transported if we dropped the mileage rate from 2.5 to 2.0 miles, from 2.0 to 1.5 miles, and 1.5 to 1.0 miles. In order to provide an accurate response, we contacted the school districts whose responses to the survey appeared inaccurate.

The average cost for transporting a student who lives 2.5 miles or more from home to school was approximately \$500 during the 1994-95 school year. We have assumed that students living less than 2.5 miles from home to school could be transported for 50 percent of that amount or \$250.

Listed below is a table which provides the estimated costs for decreasing the transportation mileage rate.

Mileage	Estimated No. of Students	Estimated Cost at 50%	Estimated No. of Students K-5	Estimated Cost at 50%	Estimated No. of Students K-3	Estimated Cost at 50%
2.5 to 2.0	24,850	\$ 6,212,500	11,469	\$ 2,867,250	7,646	\$ 1,911,500
2.0 to 1.5	27,576	6,894,000	12,727	3,181,750	8,485	2,121,250
1.5 to 1.0	38,388	9,597,000	17,718	4,429,500	11,812	2,953,000

During the 1995-96 school year, the state provided \$67,627,076 for reimbursing school districts for the transportation of resident students living over 2.5 miles from home to school.

DD:sr

Dale M. Dennis
Deputy Commissioner
Assistant Commissioner for
Fiscal Services and Quality Control
(913) 296-3571
Fax No. (913) 296-7933



HB 2650

Testimony presented before the House Committee of Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas
February 4, 1998

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Many Kansas school districts, especially those in or close to urban centers, are currently transporting children for which they receive no reimbursement under the 2.5 mile transportation formula. That decision is made primarily for safety reasons. If implemented, the provisions of **HB 2650** would allow districts to reallocate dollars now spent on getting kids to school to instructional activities after they get there. We encourage the committee to report the bill favorably.

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 9



Blue Valley Schools - USD #229

1998 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Governing Schools

BLUE VALLEY USD #229 supports the current method of electing school board members and would support their taking office on June 1. Further, Blue Valley supports efforts to extend home rule powers to local boards of education.

Home Schools

BLUE VALLEY USD #229 supports the regulation and oversight of home schools by the Kansas Department of Education.

State Board of Education

Retain the self-executing powers of the State Board of Education, the current method of election with the addition of a gubernatorial appointed member of the state board, for a total of eleven members of the state board, and maintain the state commissioner position as an appointee of the state board.

Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC)

In order to clarify the relationship between the Blue Valley Recreation Commission and the school district, Blue Valley USD #229 supports an independent status as an elected commission for the BVRC.

Proposed Improvements to the Kansas School Finance System

- √ Support innovation and encourage lower high school drop-out rate, by students attending state-approved alternative education high school programs counting as 1.0 F.T.E. regardless of actual daily schedule.
- √ Modify the At-Risk weighting definition to include other student categories beyond Free and Reduced Lunch based on economic considerations and the weighting applied should be on a rational basis of program and student costs.
- √ Support basing the pupil weighting factor for transportation on 1 mile distance between home and school. Other extenuating or hazardous conditions or circumstances should be defined and recognized for state reimbursement.
- √ Support regulation of property abatement practices.
- √ Support funding for "model" students attending pre-school handicapped programs.
- √ Support a budget appeal process for special circumstances, such as an increase in health insurance, workman's comp, utility costs, federal and/or state mandates, liability insurance, social security, and ADA.
- √ Support carryover in the general fund. Moneys should be allowed to carry over to the same level (7.5%) as the state general fund.
- √ Support a second enrollment date for growing school districts to adjust budget during the current year.
- √ Create a technology fund supported by state revenues outside the general fund.

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



1420 S.W. Arrowhead Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604
913-273-3600

To: House Committee on Education

From: John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

Date: February 4, 1998

Re: **Testimony on H.C.R. 5029-Federal Share of Special Education Costs**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards, we wish to express our wholehearted support for the concept embodied in H.C.R. 5029, that of the federal government assuming the responsibility which it originally espoused of paying for 40% of the cost of the mandate contained in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Should Congress assume this responsibility and the state of Kansas assume its commitment to fund the state "excess cost" formula at 100%, then precious local school district general fund dollars would no longer have to be transferred to fund the education of special needs children at the expense of children in regular education programs.

Only yesterday, a delegation of Kansas school board members were in the nation's Capitol to share the concerns of Kansas school boards on federal issues. Primary among those concerns was the subject of this resolution. We urge you not only to pass this resolution favorably, but to urge our Congressional delegation at every opportunity to support appropriations measures which would accomplish the goal of the resolution. We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this issue and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.

House Education
2-4-98
Attachment 11