

Approved: _____

2/2

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 29, 1998 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley - Excused

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Emert
Todd Covault, USD 253, Emporia
Mark Tallman, KASB
Jim Cain, USD 287 Pomona
Larry Bowers, USD 217 Rolla
Allaire Homburg, USD 293 Quinter

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and asked Senator Emert to explain the bill.

SB 481--determination of low enrollment weighting

Senator Emert gave background on the bill which concerns students who attend schools in districts where they do not reside. If the pupil from a larger school attends a smaller school, the district would receive the amount of weighting that the larger district would receive; if the student from a smaller school attends a larger school, the larger district would receive the amount of weighting it would receive if the student was a resident. There are approximately 11,000 Kansas students that attend school outside their district of residence.

Senator Emert distributed a chart that showed Correlation/Low Enrollment Weighting Per Pupil by Enrollment Category which was based on a base state aid per pupil of \$3,670. (Attachment 1) He also distributed letters from superintendents, assistant superintendents, and Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Board of Education. (Attachment 2)

Several comments were made about the amounts of weightings that the different transfer would affect. There were decided differences of opinion about the way district superintendents viewed the bill as read.

Todd Covault, Director of Business Operations, Emporia USD 253, spoke as a proponent of the bill. He stated the bill would fund students attending a non-residential school district based upon the lower of either the residential school or the attendance school. Under the proposed bill, a child would generate revenues equivalent to the lower of the two amounts regardless of where the student lives or attends school. It puts districts on an equal competitive basis. This legislation would increase processing time in order to determine the residential location of each child. (Attachment 3)

Recruitment of students was discussed and questioned as to the appropriateness of radio and newspaper ads that actively recruit students.

Chairperson Lawrence, called on Mark Tallman, KASB, the first opponent of the bill. Mr. Tallman stated that the real impact of the bill would be to reduce the budget authority small districts would receive if they admit students from larger districts. It would penalize those districts which have accepted students from larger districts and would create an incentive to not accept such students in the future. Last year the bill was passed requiring some districts to allow their neighbors to provide transportation to students who wish to attend school out of district. It would penalize some districts who are already allowing non-residents to attend their schools. Attending the school of choice has always been supported. It is questioned why the Legislature would want to discourage an approach to school choice that has worked out well. The answer is to narrow the funding gap between larger and smaller districts. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 29, 1998.

Jim Cain, USD Pomona, appeared on the bill, stating that he thought it pointless to track the students that attend schools out of their district when the financial impact is fairly insignificant. The bureaucratic cost would far exceed the savings. (Attachment 5) Mr. Cain gave four reasons that students are transferring to the district; closer residence; parent's employment; programs not offered elsewhere, and a new try in another district for a student. Mr. Cain had a map showing several districts which he used showed while explaining students crossing district lines and said he thought the circumstances probably fit a lot of other school districts.

Larry Bowers, USD 217 Rolla, spoke of other states who struggle with the idea of strict district boundary lines and do not provide parents with alternatives that are better for the students. Kansas allows students to attend the school in the district that best fits their needs. If this bill is an attempt to correct specific situations that have occurred in other districts, the school finance formula and open enrollment philosophy should not be tampered with. (Attachment 6)

Allaire Homburg, USD 293 Quinter, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to appear and stated that USD 293 is a small school district located 50 miles west of Hays, on I-70. He appeared in opposition to the bill because in 1992, with the passage of the new funding bill for education, it was established that the student population of the school district the student was attending was the determining factor for budget authority for that school district. The student population of the school district that a student attends is what matters, not the location of the house in which the student resides. In Mr. Homburg's opinion the fact that there is no transportation aid for out-of-district students is already too much of a punishment for a student deciding to attend another school district. He is opposed to the philosophical change this bill would bring (Attachment 7)

Testimony was submitted by the following persons who did not testify or were not present:

Gerald W. Henderson, United School Administrators (Attachment 8)

Schools for Quality Education, 1997-98 members (Attachment 9)

Michael D. Hull, USD 439 Sedgwick (Attachment 10)

As it was past the allotted committee time, the Chairperson stated the bill would be taken up at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1998.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 29, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Stacy Farmer	KASB
Mark Tallman	KASB
SIM ALLEN	KEC
JIM CAIN	USD 287
Allison Covault	
JOAN COVAULT	
Todd Covault	USD 253 - Emporia
Neal MANN	USD 293
ALLAIRE HOMBURG	USD 293
TED VANNOCKER	USD 243 Lebo-Waverly
Sue Chase	KNEA
Melinda Calderwood	Washburn
Don Ryan	USD 321
Amy May	KACCT
Morrin Burnis	KBOR
Ted Miller	State Treasurer
Peggy Hanna	" "
Ken Bask	Hays, USD #489

Correlation/Low Enrollment Weighting Per Pupil by Enrollment Category

Based on a Base State Aid Per Pupil of \$3,670

<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Actual FTE Enrollment</u>	<u>Weighting Factor</u>	<u>Total Aid Per Pupil</u>
100	1.0	1.141565	\$7,859.54
250	1.0	.718841	6,308.15
500	1.0	.505692	5,526.73
750	1.0	.415391	5,194.48
1,000	1.0	.325008	4,862.78
1,250	1.0	.234787	4,531.67
1,500	1.0	.144483	4,200.25
1,750	1.0	.054183	3,868.85
1,800	1.0	.036121	3,802.56

F/T:L/corr.low

*Senate Education
Attachment 1
1-29-98*



January 28, 1998

Mr. Rob Mealy
Office of Senator Tim Emert
Kansas Senate
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Sir:

RE: Senate Bill 481

Following a brief review of Senate Bill 481 details, I feel that Unified School District 428 would support the bill *in theory*.

It is our belief that the choice of educational site by students and / or parents should not be rewarded, while increasing state aid costs. When students / parents residing in one district choose to transfer to a school which has a different weighted enrollment dollar amount, the lower of the two amounts (home / receiving district), in our opinion, should be the amount that the receiving district is granted for those students.

Not knowing how the situations would affect the overall low enrollment factors and subsequent impacts to the State, it is difficult, however, to *fully* endorse Senate Bill 481.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Harris".

John Harris
Assistant Superintendent

JHpv

Senate Education
Attachment 2
1-29-98



Unified School District 443

1000 Second Avenue • P.O. Box 460 • Dodge City, Kansas 67801-0460
 (316) 227-1620 • Fax (316) 227-1695

Dr. Sharol Little
 Superintendent

Dr. David A. Cox
 Assistant Superintendent
 for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Morris L. Reeves
 Assistant Superintendent
 for Business and Finance

Richard H. McVay
 Director of Personnel
 and Staff Development

January 28, 1998

Senator Tim Emert
 Senator 15th District
 State Capital Building Rm. 356-E
 Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Senator Emert:

Mr. Rob Mealy of your office faxed us a copy of Senate Bill 481 which will restrict the amount of revenue accruing to a receiving school district when a student transfers from a district with a lower revenue limit. The receiving district will be restricted to no more than the amount the district of resident would have received had the student attended in his home district.

We strongly support this legislation and feel it will eliminate the incentive for small districts to recruit students from larger districts in order to receive a higher revenue limit. It certainly levels the playing field for attracting students to our attendance centers.

I want to express our appreciation to your and your staff for keeping us informed of pending legislation.

Sincerely,

Morris L. Reeves
 Assistant Superintendent

cc: Dr. Sharol Little
 Board of Education

All Will

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages ▶
To	Rob Mealy	From	Morris Reeves
Co./Dept.		Co.	USD 443
Phone #		Phone #	316-227-1621
Fax #		Fax #	316-227-1774



Rockwell Administration Center
Unified School District 489
323 West 12th Street
Hays, Kansas 67601-3893

TEL (913) 623-2400
FAX (913) 623-2409

January 27, 1998

TO: Rob Mealy
Office of Senator Tim Emert

FROM: Fred Kaufman

REF: S.B. 481

I have received your fax of January 27 pertaining to Senate Bill 481. Thank you for asking my opinion.

This bill would have no impact on us, and very little impact on surrounding districts. Unified School District 489 has a number of students who come to us from the surrounding districts, but they are already counted in our lower weighting. The number that we have going from 489 to the surrounding districts is negligible. There would of course be some impact to the smaller districts if they had one or two.

I think that in some other areas of the state the impact might be considerably more significant. It is my understanding that in the Salina, Great Bend and Dodge City areas for example, there are significant numbers of students who leave non-low enrollment districts and go to low enrollment districts. The difference in weighting could be as much as \$3,000 per student. A small district that had as many as 20 or 30 of these students could stand to lose significant dollars.

It is my belief that this is good legislation and I would certainly support it. It doesn't make sense for a \$4,000 student in the Hays school district to become a \$6,100 student if they choose to go to Victoria.

Thank you again for asking.



**SHAWNEE HEIGHTS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 450**

Central Services Facility
4401 S.E. Shawnee Heights Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542-9799
(785) 379-5800 Fax: (785) 379-5810

Dr. Stephen G. McClure, Superintendent of Schools
Rebecca L. Lisher, Associate Superintendent
Shirley J. Martin, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business
Kyle Goodwin, Director of Special Education

January 28, 1998

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: Dr. Stephen G. McClure
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve McClure". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

I would like to express my opinion in favor of legislation that is being proposed by Senator Tim Emert, which would help level the playing field between public school districts as it relates to individuals who live in one district but wish to attend school in another district.

We have a tendency to believe these changes are often done due to well-informed, lofty educational decisions made by parents. While I feel parents should be able to make such decisions, my experience with such decisions is that more likely than being an important educational decision, it is made on the basis of: (1) a student isn't the starting 2nd baseman in his current high school, but he knows he can beat out the 2nd baseman at another high school; (2) the grandparents live in the other school district so it helps facilitate safe, low-cost before and after school care; (3) the district of residence is too structured in the area of discipline and the parent is tired of the school calling them at work.

The "Open Door" policy toward inter-district transfer of students basically came to widespread use in 1992 with the inception of a state-wide general fund mill levy. Prior to that, the general fund levy would go up if there was higher head count and more local funds needed to be generated. However, this does affect local taxes and state taxes if it gets to a point where additional classrooms are needed, while classrooms sit vacant in the sending school, or if there is a local option budget, and the local match must be generated for that local option budget. For this reason, Shawnee Heights does not open its doors to out-of-district students, but Shawnee Heights is the exception.

It is my opinion we must level the playing field between sending and receiving schools. If the sending school has a general fund budget of \$4,000 per pupil, and the receiving school would receive \$5,500 per pupil, then I am in support of legislation that regardless of where the students receives their education, they carry with them the same number of general fund budget dollars. That should be the lower of the two between the sending and receiving school districts.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Senate Bill No. 481

Letter Submitted to the Senate Education Committee
by J. Alan Schuler, Deputy Superintendent
Unified School District #453
January 28, 1998

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Unified School District #453, I would like to provide information to support the passage of Senate Bill No. 481.

It is my understanding that this bill would provide that the computation of low enrollment weighting, for students attending a Kansas public school located in a school district other than the school district of residence, be based on the weighting of the home school or the school of attendance which ever is lower. I support this on the basis of fairness.

It is reasonable and fair to allow students to attend school in a neighboring school district if they desire. The state, however, should not be required to support the education of a student at a greater cost than would be required if the student attended in his/her home district. An increased cost is being paid under the present law. A larger school district, who accept students from a lower enrollment school district, does not receive the low enrollment weighting of the home school district. Likewise, a lower enrollment district should not be allowed to receive the low enrollment basis of their district for the students from a larger district.

I do not feel at the present time that our school district is being impacted directly by the present law. Only one "small" district borders. The other districts bordering us are close to or above the 1,800 student enrollment level. I do not feel that Easton USD #449, the small school bordering us, is recruiting students as I understand is being done in other areas of the state. I am, however, concerned of the impact statewide if the current practice is to continue.

As an example, if ten students from USD #453 were enrolled and attending in Easton USD #449 on September 22nd, 1997, (the official count date) the state of Kansas would have paid an additional amount of approximately \$1,433 for each of these students or \$14,300 for all ten of them. On the other hand, if ten students from Easton USD #449 were enrolled and attending in USD #453 on the official count date for this year the State of Kansas would have realized a savings of approximately the same amount. It is not fair to the taxpayers of the state for this practice to continue. This is of special concern in some areas of the state where smaller districts are recruiting students from the larger districts. Would this recruitment continue if the home district funding, if less, followed the student? I think not.

An open enrollment policy between school district can provide for school "choice". Based on school district policy, a student may be allowed to attend the school where the student or parent feel the best education would be received. "Choice" should not require increased expense to state taxpayers which is the current practice.

The passage of this bill will save the state money and remove an inequity that presently exists. I encourage your support of this bill.

**NEWTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #373****124 WEST SEVENTH STREET, P.O. BOX 307, NEWTON, KANSAS 67114-0307****(316) 284-6200**

January 28, 1998

The Honorable Tim Emert
Kansas Senate
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Emert:

I received a copy of Senate Bill No. 481 from your office. As a member of Schools for Fair Funding, Newton USD #373 has a vested interest in issues surrounding school finance. I appreciate your focus and work for the children of our schools.

In analyzing the bill on weighting, I had the following thoughts:

- The entire issue addressed reminds me that there are many parts of the school funding formula that cause inequities. While I must support the premise that there is a level of enrollment where efficiency and flexibility can be drawn, the number of 1,900 (or currently 1,800) students cannot be supported with research. The Mueller Report places this level at districts of approximately 1,200 students. Thus, I support the premise that students who attend districts that are by necessity less than 1,200 require more monetary support per student.
- One of the issues that the 1992 litigation was filed on was the address of a child's home should not dictate the quality of education provided for that child. While I understand the issue behind your bill, I wonder if it somewhat supports the idea of where a child resides (not in what size school district he attends) is the major indicator of how much funding should follow that child.
- Members of Schools for Fair Funding have debated this issue repeatedly. I do acknowledge that as a district, we do have students who transfer to area districts and receive different weighting than if they attended in Newton, their home district. I usually have about the same number of students who reside in the smaller communities that ask for and are granted transfers into USD #373. The area schools do this not in a spirit of competition for students, but at the

The Honorable Tim Emert
January 28, 1998
Page Two

request of the parent. Many of the requests are made for educational reasons, many are made for the personal benefit of a parent who lives in another town but works in Newton, and others are made on the basis that 'the other school doesn't understand me or my child.' While I could argue the issue that the State of Kansas perhaps should not pay more for this parental choice, I have to acknowledge as an educator that parental choice issues often do impact the motivation of a child and support of a parent.

- Newton USD #373 as a member of Schools for Fair Funding has made a commitment to focus this legislative session on four points (correlation weighting, at-risk funding, base per pupil and technology funding). Many of the smaller enrollment school districts across the state find issue with our stance. Other low enrollment school districts understand that we must remain focused on what we feel is needed for our children. I have spent quite a bit of time talking with these other educators. To come out in support of Senate Bill No. 481 could be in opposition to the premise of which I have spoken. I have repeatedly said that, as superintendents, we must count all children of Kansas as our responsibility and to do otherwise will jeopardize the future of our state.

I again thank you for your continued support of all our children. I'm reminded of the phrase "Children may only represent 20% of our population but they represent 100% of our future."

Sincerely,



Kay Baker
Superintendent
USD #373



A Tradition
of Excellence

INDEPENDENCE USD 446

January 27, 1998

Administration Center
DR. CHARLES MOCK, Superintendent
JANA K. SHAVER, Curriculum Director
FRED MEIER, Business Manager
517 North Tenth Street
P. O. Drawer 487
Independence, Kansas 67301
(316) 332-1800
Fax: (316) 332-1811

Senator Tim Emert
356-E
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Tim,

As a result of your call, I tallied the number of students that are transferring to Longton (Elk Valley USD 283) from USD 446. This year we have a total of 55 students who have transferred. However, in looking back to last year's records, I find that we had 49 students who were attending at Longton ... not all that much different.

I think what has happened is that those students who previously attended Longton and had to provide their own transportation, have made application under the new law (S.B.17) and are now eligible to receive transportation services directly from Longton.

Under S.B.17, our Board has to approve all these applications for transfer. As a result, our Board is made directly aware of these numbers, whereas in past years this was not the case.

Also, since the Elk Valley buses now come into Elk City and make other stops in our district, the perception is that a great number of students have transferred than is the actual case.

Sincerely,

Charles Mock, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CM/cf

Your public schools ... There's no better place to learn.



January 28, 1997

Senator Tim Emert
Capitol Building Room 356-E
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Emert:

I am sorry I will be unable to appear before the Senate Education Committee Thursday, January 29th. My schedule has been hectic and I have other commitments on that date.

When I spoke with your staff member on January 26th I reminded her that Senator Vidricksen from Salina previously introduced Senate Bill No. 135, heard on February 6, 1995 at 1:15 p.m. The bill did not make it out of committee. Evidently, Senate Bill No. 135 (1995 Legislature) and Senate Bill No. 481 (1998 Legislature) are somewhat similar. I am taking the liberty of faxing you a copy of the bill that was introduced, my testimony, a financial impact statement prepared by Dale Dennis and testimony of Mark Tallman from the Kansas Association of School Boards.

In Mr. Tallman's testimony on Senate Bill No. 135 he states, "The low enrollment weighting systems represents the state's best estimate of what it costs to educate students in smaller districts. If we are going to allow non-resident students to attend those schools an appropriate amount of funding should be provided." I can provide you with research based evidence to the contrary. As far as I know, the state has never estimated or proven what it costs to educate students in smaller districts. A December, 1994 study by Dr. Van D. Mueller, Ed.D. from the University of Minnesota indicates that on the contrary, in many cases it does not cost more to educate students in some smaller districts. It is true, however, that smaller districts spend more.

With the current finance formula smaller districts are encouraged to use out-of-district students to provide enhancements to their budgets. I refer you to a April, 1995 newsletter released by the Twin Valley U.S.D. #240 school district in which Mr. Larry Geil states, "Out-of-district students have traditionally been a benefit to this district and have provided the numbers to allow the district to maintain two high schools. This year there are 33 out-of-district students attending Tescott and 102 attending Bennington. The larger a school district is the more likely it will remain open if future consolidation occurs. There is a bill in the legislature at this time for county school systems. This legislation will not be enacted this year but we must keep a constant awareness of this type of dangerous legislation. Numbers are very important to our district!"

Salina Public Schools

Unified School District No. 305 (785) 826-4700 P.O. Box 797 Salina, Kansas 67402

20 P 900 P 006 P 02

JAN 28 '98

An Equal Employment/Education Opportunity Agency

ID: 913828264700

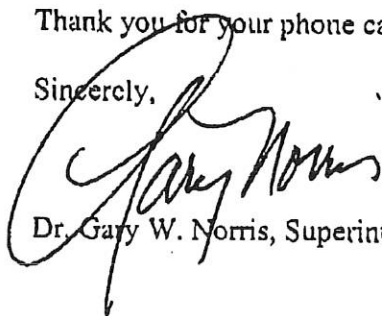
USD #305 OFFICE

2-8

Please feel free to use any of my previous testimony that you find applicable to the current situation. If the Senate Education Committee finds merit in this revision of the Kansas school finance formula, then I would recommend that the approximate \$5-6 million revenue savings be placed in the base school finance formula and distributed among all Kansas school districts not just the 7,000 that voluntarily choose other districts.

Thank you for your phone call.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gary W. Norris, Superintendent

P.S. 4:00 p.m. - I just received a call from my Director of Business and Finance who had just learned that your bill may be slightly different than Senate Bill No. 135. It is my understanding that the impact of your bill may not reduce budgetary authority for a small district because of the way the formula is structured, thus not saving taxpayers any money; i.e., if a small district lost revenue because their out-of-district students were counted at a lower rate per pupil the doubling effect of the formula may make up the difference. This is a question that needs to be addressed with Assistant Commissioner Dale Dennis.

Our intention in U.S.D. #305 has never been punitive whatsoever, although some will argue to the contrary. One should ask the question, "Why does it cost more to educate a Salina resident "a" in a neighboring district that is a similar distance from their home?" If you can answer that question, then ask the following question, "Why should the state pay \$5-6 million more in state aid for student's privilege of choice?" All supporters of student choice place some responsibility on the family -- even the supporters of vouchers.

SENATE BILL No. 135

By Committee on Education

1-26

9 AN ACT concerning school district finance; affecting the determination
10 of low enrollment weighting; amending K.S.A. 72-6412 and repealing
11 the existing section.

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

13 Section 1. K.S.A. 72-6412 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-
14 6412. The low enrollment weighting of each district with under 1,900
15 enrollment shall be determined by the state board as follows:

16 (a) Determine the amount of the median budget per pupil for the
17 1991-92 school year of districts with 75-125 enrollment in such school
18 year;

19 (b) determine the amount of the median budget per pupil for the
20 1991-92 school year of districts with 200-399 enrollment in such school
21 year;

22 (c) determine the amount of the median budget per pupil for the
23 1991-92 school year of districts with 1,900 and over enrollment;

24 (d) prescribe a schedule amount for each of the districts by preparing
25 a schedule based upon an accepted mathematical formula and derived
26 from a linear transition between (1) the median budgets per pupil deter-
27 mined under (a) and (b), and (2) the median budgets per pupil deter-
28 mined under (b) and (c). The schedule amount for districts with 0-99
29 enrollment is an amount equal to the amount of the median budget per
30 pupil determined under (a). The schedule amount for districts with 100-
31 299 enrollment is the amount derived from the linear transition under
32 (1). The schedule amount for districts with 300-1,899 enrollment is the
33 amount derived from the linear transition under (2);

34 (e) for districts with 0-99 enrollment:

35 (1) Subtract the amount determined under (c) from the amount de-
36 termined under (a);

37 (2) divide the remainder obtained under (1) by the amount deter-
38 mined under (e);

39 (3) subtract from enrollment of the district in the current school year
40 the number of pupils, if any, who do not meet the requirements of K.S.A.
41 72-1046, and amendments thereto, for attendance at school in the district;

42 (3)(4) multiply the quotient obtained under (2) by the enrollment of
43

1 the district in the current school year. The product is the low enrollment
2 weighting of the district remainder obtained under (3);

3 (5) determine the number of pupils subtracted from enrollment under
4 (3), if any, who meet the requirements of K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments
5 thereto, for attendance at school in a district with 100-299 enrollment and
6 multiply the quotient obtained under (f)(2) by the number of pupils de-
7 termined under this provision;

8 (6) determine the number of pupils subtracted from enrollment under
9 (3), if any, who meet the requirements of K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments
10 thereto, for attendance at school in a district with 300-1,899 enrollment
11 and multiply the quotient obtained under (g)(2) by the number of pupils
12 determined under this provision;

13 (7) add the products obtained under (5) and (6) to the product ob-
14 tained under (4). The sum is the low enrollment weighting of the district;

15 (f) for districts with 100-299 enrollment:

16 (1) Subtract the amount determined under (c) from the schedule
17 amount of the district;

18 (2) divide the remainder obtained under (1) by the amount deter-
19 mined under (c);

20 (3) subtract from enrollment of the district in the current school year
21 the number of pupils, if any, who meet the requirements of K.S.A. 72
22 1046, and amendments thereto, for attendance at school in a district with
23 300 or over enrollment and multiply the quotient obtained under (2) by
24 the enrollment of the district in the current school year. The product is
25 the low enrollment weighting of the district remainder obtained under
26 this provision;

27 (4) determine the number of pupils subtracted from enrollment under
28 (3), if any, who meet the requirements of K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments
29 thereto, for attendance at school in a district with 300-1,899 enrollment
30 and multiply the quotient obtained under (g)(2) by the number of pupils
31 determined under this provision;

32 (5) add the product obtained under (4) to the product obtained under
33 (3). The sum is the low enrollment weighting of the district;

34 (g) for districts with 300-1,899 enrollment:

35 (1) Subtract the amount determined under (c) from the schedule
36 amount of the district;

37 (2) divide the remainder obtained under (1) by the amount deter-
38 mined under (c);

39 (3) subtract from enrollment of the district in the current school year
40 the number of pupils, if any, who meet the requirements of K.S.A. 72-
41 1046, and amendments thereto, for attendance at school in a district with
42 1,900 or over enrollment and multiply the quotient obtained under (2)
43 by the enrollment of the district in the current school year remainder

1 obtained under this provision. The product is the low enrollment weight-
2 ing of the district.

3 (h) The provisions of this section shall take effect and be in force
4 from and after July 1, 1990.

5 (i) In determining low enrollment weighting under this section, the
6 state board shall determine the district in which each pupil, not meeting
7 the requirements of K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments thereto, for atten-
8 dance at school in the district in which enrolled, is entitled to attend school
9 under the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments thereto.

10 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-6412 is hereby repealed.

11 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
12 publication in the statute book.

Senate Education Committee
Testimony of Gary Norris, Superintendent
Salina Public Schools
Re: Senate Bill #. 135
Monday, February 6, 1995
1:15 PM

Mr. Chairman, Senators: We come before you today to address a matter that we believe can be best described as a fairness issue concerning the resident students of U.S.D. #305. Before I present some background on our predicament let me pose two philosophical questions that motivated and prompted our request to Senator Vidricksen to sponsor/introduce Senate Bill #135:

1. Why should the freedom of choice for students to attend another district, which in and of itself is a vitally important right, cost the state taxpayers an additional 4.5 to 5.5 million dollars a year?
2. Why should Salina Public Schools have to compete for it's own resident students at a \$2000+ /pupil disadvantage?

As we discuss these issues with you today, let me say unequivocally that I support the USA (United School Administrators) position on school finance introduced last week in the House. It is truly significant that school administrators from district across the state came together in agreement on adjustments that should take place this year.

In my opinion Senate Bill #135 in no way undermines the USA Position.

Senate Bill #135 provides that any student who attends a school district other than the district of residence will generate the lower amount of funding between the district of residence and the district they attend.

As you know senators, funding for schools has remained at the same level of a \$3600 base for the past three years. Considering that fact, and the subsequent loss of two LOB protest votes, Salina was forced to make many painful decisions: (1) to cut \$738,914. (2) close three schools, (3)

reconfigured 4 schools. In addition, this year we have 34.6 less employees than 93-94. Our district remains the lowest cost per pupil district in the entire state. Please notice our handout showing all districts in Kansas from low to high.

As a result of these very difficult decisions, specifically the one to close Glenifer Hill School, approximately 60 students chose to attend the Twin Valley school district. This accounted for an approximate loss of \$216,000 to our general fund which when combined with other recent events make our financial situation very difficult. Our total student loss (headcount) for this year was 115, with other students choosing to attend private/parochial schools. Even with the declining enrollment provision, we are still in a precarious position.

Mr. Chairman, Senate Bill 135 affects approximately 7,000 out of approximately 457,000 total Kansas Students. However, in a majority of the transfer situations, there would be little or no change. For the sake of clarity let me utilize the designation large and small districts rather than in each case referring to a district receiving or not receiving low enrollment weighting.

Our request has little or no effect on three of the following transfer situations:

1. Small district resident student transferring to a small district.
(Would vary depending upon the actual low-enrollment weighting.)
2. Large district resident student transferring to a large district.
3. Small district resident student transferring to a large district.

In each of these cases their funding would be virtually the same as it has been.

However Senate Bill #135 affects the scenario where you find:

4. Large district resident students attending small districts.

In that situation the student would generate only the amount they would have generated if they would have remained in the district of residence. We propose that amount-- approximately \$5,000,000 be designated

the base student allocation enhancing education for all Kansas Students.

OTHER ISSUES--I have read and heard numerous criticisms of Senate Bill #135. Because of the limited time available for our purposes today, I will only briefly mention a few.

1. Hurt's students freedom of choice--That would be the case only if a smaller receiving district wouldn't accept the students at the lower amount.
2. Discriminatory--How can it be discriminatory to pay another district the exact same amount (\$3600) for a transfer student, that their district of residence receives, unless it was discriminatory to begin with.
3. Hurt Children--Salina's students have had their budgets, lowered in addition to damage that would be caused by the lost of assessed valuation caused by a proposed transfer of property. Why are we just now talking about hurting students.
4. Dropout Rate--Some how Salina's Dropout Rate has entered into the discussion concerning transfer students. Why wasn't it an issue before we closed three schools. I always thought students leaving school were caused by a whole plethora of other societal reasons. I thought the research demonstrated that generally dropouts do not come from homes with supportive, involved parents. I am really confused why someone would attack our Dropout Rate. In the last five years our average rate is 4.7 %. The five year state average rate is 3.58 %.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Level Playing Field--So that there is not a financial incentive for districts to accept students from other districts, we ask that you give strong consideration to our bill today.

We are told repeatedly by parents with students attending smaller districts: "We are attracted to their smaller class sizes." "The children have access to more computers." "They offer languages in the elementary school." Why wouldn't this be true. Not only did they get the base student aid per pupil

(\$3600) as we do, but they also receive additional dollars for the low enrollment weighting for transfer students.

Mr. Chairman, Senators, Thank you for this privilege of bringing our concerns before you today.

Kansas State Board of Education

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

January 30, 1995

TO: Gloria Timmer, Director
Division of the Budget

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Asst. Commissioner
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control

SUBJECT: 1995 Senate Bill 135

Senate Bill 135 provides that any student who attends a school district other than their district of residence will generate the lower amount of funding between the district of residence and the district they attend. For example, if a student lives in a school district with an enrollment over 1,900 and attends a district with an enrollment of 800, they would receive reimbursement on the same basis as if they attended school in the district of residence.

On the other hand, if a student lived in a small district of 800 students and attended a district with over 1,900 students, they would be funded at the amount authorized for the district they were attending.

There are approximately 7,000 students that attend school outside their district of residence. Of those 7,000 students, it is estimated that 50 to 60 percent would be affected by Senate Bill 135. By using the median weighting for school districts under 1,900, it is estimated that the median weighting would be reduced by .3612 or an additional \$1,300.32 per student from those districts that have students attending from districts having enrollments over 1,900. Therefore, assuming 50 percent of the 7,000 students would receive a lower weighting factor of .3612, it would reduce state aid by \$4,551,120 (3,500 students times \$1,300.32). Assuming 60 percent of the students are affected, it would reduce state aid by \$5,461,344 (4,200 students times \$1,300.32).

Therefore, by giving the school district the lower enrollment weighting in their district of residence or attendance, it would have the effect of reducing state aid by between \$4,551,120 and \$5,461,344.

Post-It [®] Fax Note	7671	Date	# of pages
To	USD 305	From	SEN VIDRIKSEN
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

Dale M. Dennis
Deputy/Assistant Commissioner
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control
(913) 296-3471
FAX No. (913) 296-7033

**KANSAS
ASSOCIATION**



**OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS**

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

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations
DATE: February 6, 1995

RE: Testimony on S.B. 97

KASB supports the passage of S.B. 97. The state has traditionally recognized that districts face extraordinary costs when the operation of new facilities begin. We do believe that there are serious problems with the current system of addressing those costs; in particular, the fact that new facilities weighting and additional budget authority are only offered to districts which are using the full local option budget, and the fact that the additional budget authority is funded entirely by the local property tax without any state equalization aid. But even with these problems, the current system appears to shut off funding for new facilities too abruptly. KASB supports a more gradual reduction when districts lose budget authority. We therefore support this bill.

RE: Testimony on S.B. 135

KASB opposes the passage of S.B. 135. Traditionally, Kansas has allowed fairly free movement of students between school districts; we have had a great deal of "choice" without a specific program by that name. Overall, that system has worked work for students. Our concern is that the concept presented in S.B. 135 curtail that movement. The real losers would be Kansas students.

The low enrollment weighting system represents the state's best estimate of what it costs to education students in smaller districts. If we are going to allow non-resident students to attend those schools, an appropriate amount of funding should be provided. (If funding should be based on student's residence rather than cost of educating, then larger districts enrolling students from smaller districts should get low enrollment weighting for those students. We don't think that makes sense, either.)

This bill seems to have been prompted by a situation in a particular part of the state. We certainly don't want to minimize the problems faced by larger districts that are losing students and faced with an erosion of quality for students who remain. The real answer, as we have suggested before, is that the state should increase the based budget pupil to narrow the budget between large and small districts, and make it easier to districts to use the local option budget when the base budget is not adequate.

APR 20

TWIN VALLEY SCHOOLS

APRIL 1995 NEWSLETTER

Spring has arrived! Forensics is winding down, track season has begun, field trips are scheduled, and hopefully the weather will be nice. Tescott High School will perform its all school play—actually two one-act plays—on Friday, March 31. Bennington High School is in the middle of rehearsal for the two performances of *The Music Man*. Seniors are looking forward to graduation with anticipation and the future with hesitation. Spring has arrived!

BOARD NOTES

At the March board meeting Dr. Stacy A. Clark presented the See to Learn eye care program. This program involves a free eye screening for all 3 year olds.

The Bennington Recreation Commission and patrons were present to discuss the ball diamonds and the proposed track. The City of Bennington was notified in May 1993 of the district's plans for a track. This ball diamond has been scheduled for removal from this area in building plans dating back to 1985. The track program is in need of an all-weather surface and facilities that will allow for track practice to be conducted on school grounds. There are many student safety concerns with the present junior and senior high track programs. There are 73 junior high and senior high students competing in the track program at Bennington at this time. Also planned in the area would be off-street parking which is needed for the facilities. The additional seating in the new gym allows many more people to attend ball games, and convenient parking is not available. One ball diamond will be available through the month of July 1995 with the other diamond remaining. Hopefully a suitable site for ball diamonds can be found so the youth of our community will have good ball diamonds and track facilities. Some of these same problems of adequate land for outdoor facilities for track programs, playgrounds, and parking exist at Tescott and solutions for this facility must be found also. There are 71 students involved in the Tescott track program.

The Board received additional information for the lease purchase for the additional four classrooms at Bennington with the option for two additional classrooms. The funds from the increased enrollment will allow these facilities to be staffed and built without any additional taxes.

The transfer of territory hearing will be held later this month. The proposed transfer area has been reduced from 22 sections to 6 1/2 sections. Land transfers of this size have been approved by the State Board even when the sending board has been opposed to the transfer. In checking the data on student attendance from these 6 1/2 sections since unification, the majority of the students living in this area have attended Bennington when transportation was available. Out-of-district students have traditionally been a benefit to this district and have provided the numbers to allow the district to maintain two high schools. This year there are 33 out-of-district students attending Tescott and 102 attending Bennington. The larger a school district is the more likely it will remain open if future consolidation occurs. There is a bill in the legislature at this time for county school systems. This legislation will not be enacted this year but we must keep a constant awareness of this type of dangerous legislation. Numbers are very important to our district!

The Ottawa County parent University requested funds for the Canfield Parenting Program. The Board voted to contribute \$200 towards this program. See related article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The 1995-96 Calendar was approved with the first day of school for students being August 23, 1995, and ending May 23, 1996. Five out-of-district students were approved for next year. The resignation of Steve Rosebrook, Bennington Math Instructor, was accepted. Steve plans to enter private business. Justin Coup was employed as Bennington High School Assistant Track Coach for the 1995 season.

The Board met in executive session to receive reports regarding performance of teaching staff. Following that report the renewal of teaching contracts for 44 teachers was approved.

Adult Basic Education
526 Congress
316-341-2253

Alternative School
315 S. Market
316-341-2252

Butcher Children's School
1200 Commercial
316-341-5301

Campus Center
620 Constitution
316-341-2390

Emporia High School
3302 W. 18th
316-341-2365

Emporia Middle School
2300 Graphic Arts
316-341-2335

Flint Hills Special
Education Cooperative
216 W. 6th
316-341-2325

Flint Hills Technical College
3301 W. 18th
316-341-2300

Head Start Center
315 S. Market
316-341-2260

Logan Avenue Elementary
521 S. East
316-341-2264

Lowther North
Intermediate School
216 W. 6th
316-341-2350

Lowther South
Intermediate School
215 W. 6th
316-341-2400

Mary Herbert Elementary
1700 W. 7th
316-341-2270

Maynard Elementary
19 Constitution
316-341-2276

Stanton Street
Early Childhood Center
1211 Stanton
316-341-2254

Village Elementary
2302 W. 15th
316-341-2282

Walnut Elementary
801 Grove
316-341-2288

William Allen
White Elementary
902 Exchange
316-341-2294

TO: Senator Barbara Lawrence, Education Committee Chairperson
Members, Senate Education Committee

FROM: Todd Covault 
Director of Business Operations, Emporia USD #253

RE: Support of Senate Bill 481
Funding for Out-of-Residence Students

DATE: January 29, 1998

Under current law, a student is counted for school finance purposes in the school in which the student attends. This school district also receives low enrollment or correlation weighting for the student. Senate Bill No. 481 would fund students attending a non-residential school district based upon the lower of either the residential school or the attendance school.

Emporia is the sponsoring district for the Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative. Below are the seven districts which make up this cooperative and the amount of revenue (base per pupil and correlation/low weighting) generated per student in each respective district. The enrollment figures are based upon FY '97. The location of the respective district central offices is in parenthesis.

District	Enrollment	\$/Student
Hamilton (Hamilton)	139.2	7,454
Madison-Virgil (Madison)	287.0	5,808
Chase County (Cottonwood Falls)	535.0	5,479
South Lyon County (Hartford)	660.5	5,313
North Lyon County (Americus)	726.5	5,226
Council Grove (Council Grove)	1,087.0	4,748
Emporia (Emporia)	4,548.1	3,803

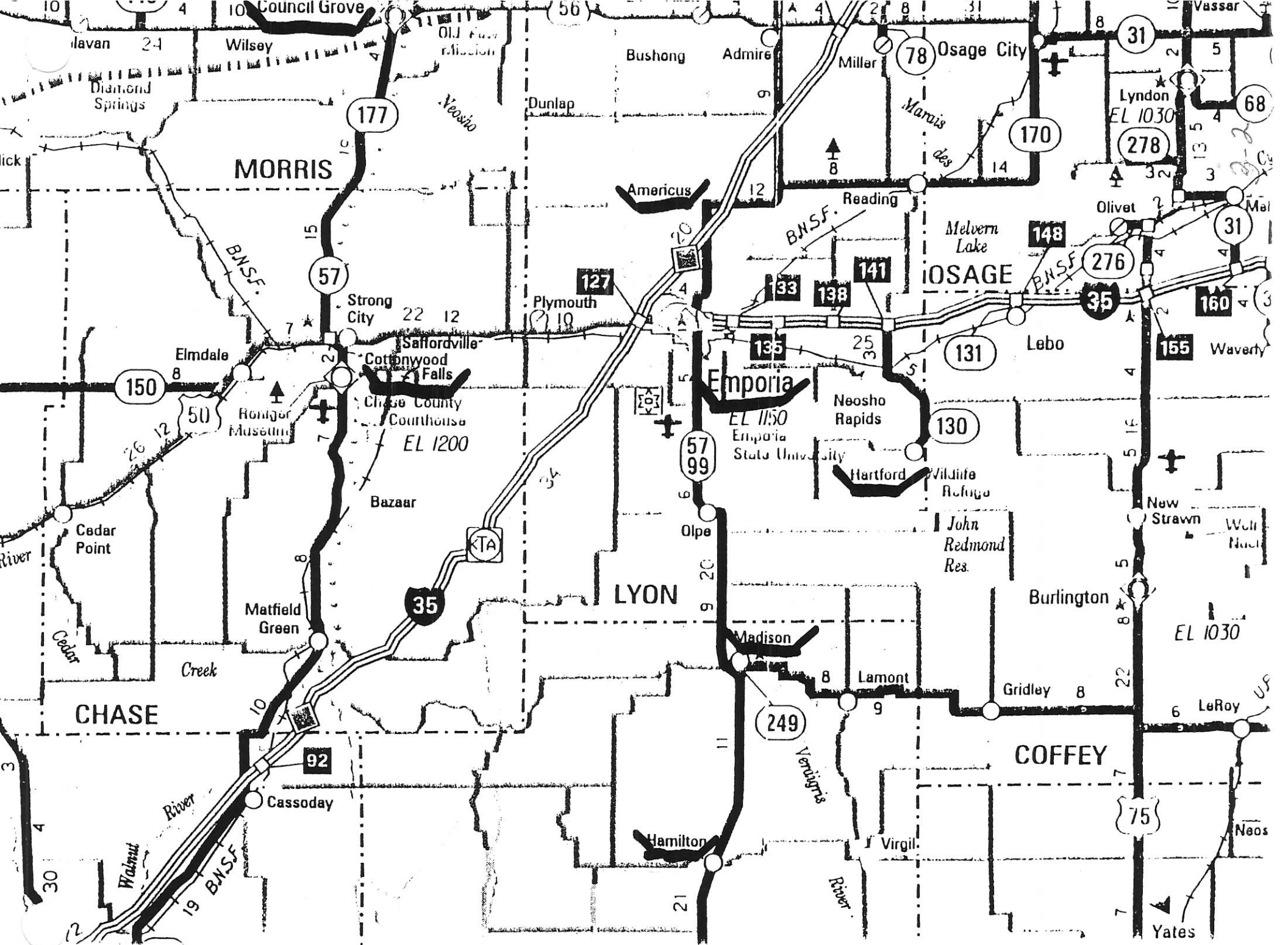
Under current law, a student that lives in the Emporia district and attends the Hamilton district would generate \$7,454 for the Hamilton district assuming that the child attended school in Hamilton before September 20. If a Hamilton student attends an Emporia school, this child would generate \$3,803 for the Emporia district. The Hamilton district would be benefited by recruiting students by \$3,651 over what Emporia would receive.

Under the proposed bill, a child would generate revenues equivalent to the lower of the two amounts regardless of where the student lives or attends school.

It should be noted that this bill will increase processing time in order to determine the residential location of each child. This bill would not only make it necessary to verify the residence of out-of-district students; this bill would also increase the need to ensure that residential students are indeed residential students.

The benefit of this proposed bill is that it puts districts on an equal competitive basis. That is, districts which "recruit" out-of-district students are not advantaged significantly due to weighting factors. The funds saved by this alteration could be used to offset the cost of increasing the base-per-pupil. It is for this reason that I support Senate Bill No. 481.

*Senate Education
attachment 3
1-29-98*





TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations
DATE: January 29, 1998

RE: Testimony on S.B. 481 - Low Enrollment Weighting

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. As we understand S.B. 481, it concerns students who attend schools in districts where they do not reside. If a student residing in a larger district attended school in a smaller district, the smaller district would only receive the amount of "pupil weighting" that the larger district of residence would have received. However, if a student moved from a smaller district to a larger district, the larger district would only receive the amount of weighting it would receive if the student was a resident.

The real impact of this bill would be to reduce the budget authority smaller districts would receive if they admit students from larger districts. While this approach would likely save the state some money, it would penalize those district which have accepted students from larger districts and would create an incentive to not accept such students in the future.

We think this approach is wrong. We believe school funding per student should be based on the cost of education where the student attends school, not where they live. The school finance system is based on pupil weightings which are supposed to reflect the cost of educating that student. The low enrollment weighting is based on the idea that it costs more to educate a child in a smaller district than a larger one. If Kansas is going to allow students to attend smaller districts, it should pay the full cost of educating them.

Last year, the Legislature passed a bill requiring some districts to allow their neighbors to provide transportation to students who wish to attend school out of district. This bill, on the other hand, would penalize some districts who are already allowing non-residents to attend their schools - in fact, it might be some of the same schools!

It seems to us that this bill really penalizes students. If smaller districts continue to accept non-residents, it means budget cuts which could hurt the educational program for all students. If smaller districts stop accepting non-residents, it means those students will have fewer choices.

Given public and political support for at least the abstract idea of "school choice," we question why the Legislature would want to discourage an approach to school choice that has worked well. We have noted that Kansas may have as many students attending schools outside of their district under voluntary local policies than some states which attempt to mandate such policies.

*Senate Education
Attachment 4
1-29-98*

We suspect the real problem which this bill attempts to address is simple: the state's larger school districts are underfunded. This creates an additional incentive for students to attend smaller districts, and thereby worsens the problem of larger districts. The real answer is not to punish smaller districts or the students who wish to attend them, but to narrow the funding gap between larger and small districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 481

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am Jim Cain and I am Superintendent of West Franklin USD 287 in Pomona, Kansas. My district would be effected by SB 481 like the vast majority of other USD's in Kansas. I know the circumstances of students crossing district lines for school attendance for my students and I would presume the same reasons fit a lot of other school districts also, but I am sure additional circumstances can be found throughout the state. Therefore, let me explain our circumstances. USD 287 has a 1997-98 FTE of 899.5 students and a headcount of 935 students. Of those 935 students, 67 reside in other school districts. Those 67 students reside in six neighboring school districts; 36 in districts with enrollments larger than USD 287 and 31 in districts smaller than USD 287. In our situation, these students come to us for a variety of reasons most frequently:

1. Residence is closer to our school than the home school
2. Parent(s) work for USD 287
3. Programs not offered in the home district (i.e. Vocational Agriculture, Technolgh Lab, Art, etc.)
4. Student was not successful in the home district

I have attached a map to this testimony showing our little part of Kansas. During unification in the 1960's, district boundaries were not established by any geographical logic. As you can see by the map, USD 287 comes very close to Ottawa USD 290 on the North, South, and West sides. Of our 67 out of district students, 29 are from USD 290 which recieves no low enrollment weighting but does receive correlation weighting. For very similar reasons as previously stated, there are 59 USD 287 students attending school in USD 290. Therefore, I lose 30 more students to USD 290 than I gain from them. It is logical for students residing within USD 287 but living 15-20 miles from their USD 287 school to attend a USD 290 school that is less than ten miles away. Likewise it is logical for students living in USD 288 or 456 (which are smaller USD's) and living 15-20 miles from their home school to attend a West Franklin School that is less than ten miles from home. The point is district boundaries are not drawn for logical school attendance.

Senate Education
Attachment 5
1-29-98

We have Kansas residents and Kansas politicians that clamor for a voucher system. As educators, we don't see vouchers as necessary as we already have open attendance and students do leave smaller schools to go to larger schools as well as leaving larger schools to go to smaller schools.

If West Franklin USD 287 was to lose low enrollment weighting on the 29 USD 290 students and some low enrollment weighting on seven students from USD 434 and 365, the financial impact would be less than \$4000 because of the low enrollment weighting formula and the receipt of correlation weighting money.

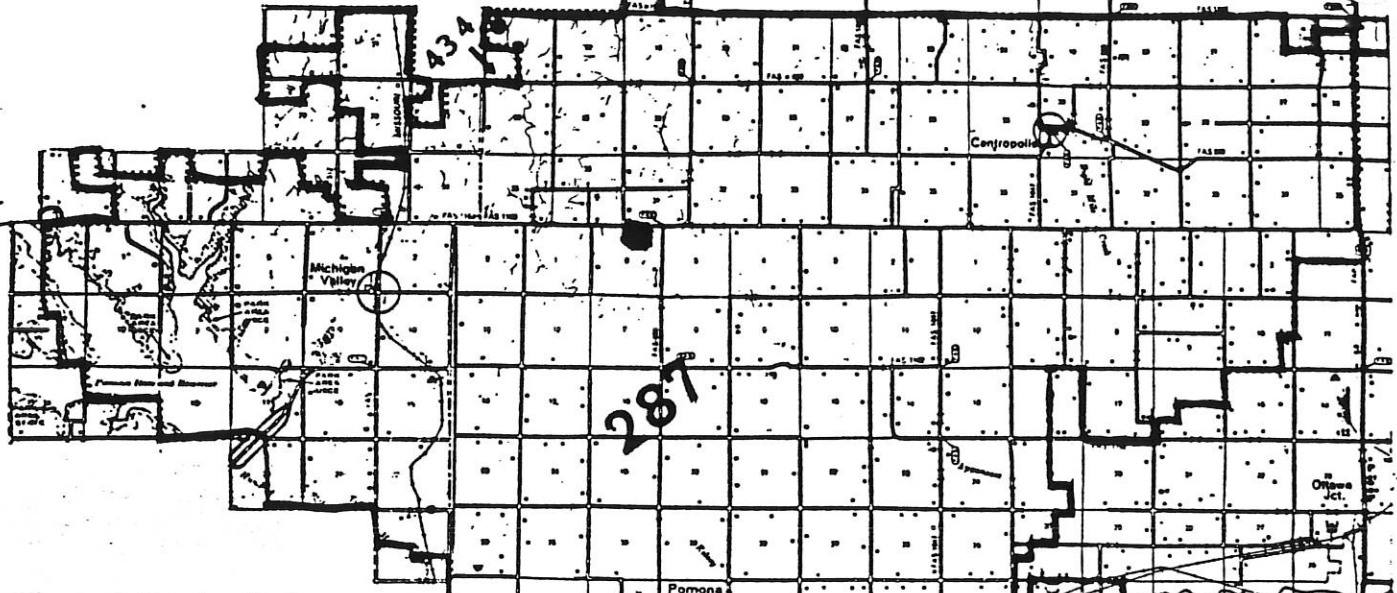
It seems pointless to me to track 11,000 Kansas students that attend schools out of their district when the financial impact is fairly insignificant. The bureaucratic cost will far exceed the savings and that seems fruitless.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be happy to answer your questions.

T15
T16

DOUGLAS

R1B
R1E
R1D
R1C
R1B
R1A
R100'



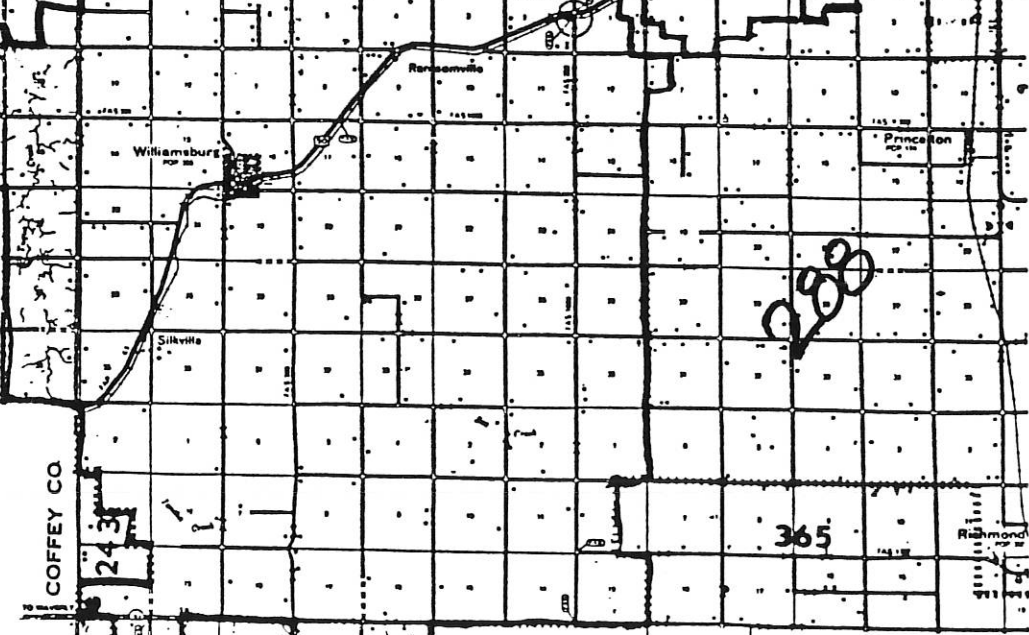
T16 S
T17 S

OSAGE COUNTY

OTTAWA

290

T17
T18



T18 OSAGE COUNTY
T19 COFFEY COUNTY

COFFEY CO

ANDERSON

R1B
R1E
R1D
R1C
R1B
R1A
R100'

243

365

Testimony Regarding Proposed Senate Bill 481

The operation of local schools in our state has been characterized by a philosophy which includes both choice and local control. Other states struggle with the idea of strict district boundary lines that do not provide parents with alternatives that are really good for their students. Kansas demonstrates an enlightened and progressive stance in allowing families to attend school in the district that best fits their needs. Districts receiving students from another districts have not had to consider the fiscal impact of taking students in and trying to educate them for less than the district currently spends on its own resident students. A main tenant of the choice philosophy described above is the deeply imbedded highly valued concept of local control. The overwhelming majority of Kansans believe in local control and want all aspects of local control of the schools preserved.

Our school district has for years provided a quality schooling alternative for families who live closer to our schools than any other school even though they do not live within our district. This is a common occurrence among the smaller schools in Kansas which are located in remote rural areas. It would be a serious mistake to make a change in the school finance formula which would have a tendency to discourage this school attendance pattern. This is especially true if the reason for considering such a change could be cared for by strong local school leadership where a problem may exist.

*Senate Education
Attachment 6
1-29-98*

If Senate Bill 481 is an attempt to correct other situations that have arisen within a receiving district, these situations should be directly confronted and dealt with and the basic philosophy of the Kansas school finance formula and the open enrollment philosophy that is so helpful to so many in so many instances should not be tampered with.

Respectfully submitted

Larry Bowers

Superintendent of Schools

USD 217

Rolla, KS

ALLAIRE T. HOMBURG, TESTIMONY
LEGISLATIVE HEARING
JANUARY 29, 1998

Honorable members of the legislature, and honored guests: I would like to thank you for this opportunity to visit with you.

My name is Allaire Homburg, and I am the Superintendent of Schools at Quinter, U.S.D. # 293. Quinter U.S.D. # 293 is a small school district located 50+ miles west of Hays, on I-70.

I am here to testify in opposition to S.B. 481. In 1992, with the passage of the new funding bill for education in the state of Kansas, it was established that the student population of the school district the student was attending was the determining factor for budget authority for that school district. Nothing has changed! The student population of the school district that a student attends is what matters, not the location of the house, in which, the student resides. It is my opinion that the fact that we receive no transportation aid for out-of-district students is already too much of a punishment for a student deciding to attend another school district. In spite of the fact that this change could possibly result in more money for my district, I am opposed to the philosophical change that this bill would bring. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding this bill.

*Senate Education
Attachment 7
1-29-98*



SB 481

Written testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas
January 29, 1998

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas is opposed to the provisions of **SB 481** and its attempts to impose a statewide limit on the ability of Kansas children to attend school in other than their district of residence. Attendance by children outside a particular school district is and ought to remain the business of local people. Once parents have made the decision that they want their children in a particular district, and by that district that room exists for the children, state education funding should be determined as for any other child in the district.

Children have always attended schools other than those provided by their district of residence for a variety of reasons. Children attend larger schools for added curricular offerings or for expanded co-curricular activities. Children attend smaller schools for reduced class size or because they believe they might fare better in the activities program of a smaller school. The workplace of parents might well dictate the need to enroll children outside their district of residence. Reducing state aid for student coming from larger to smaller schools will only serve to reduce the flexibility now available to parents. The content of this bill was not a good idea when first presented. It still isn't. We encourage the committee to bury **SB 481**.

*Senate Education
Attachment 8
1-29-98*



SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

1997-98 MEMBERS



NORTHEAST REGION

221 North Central-Haddam
222 Washington
223 Barnes
224 Clifton-Clyde
321 Kaw Valley
323 Rock Creek
329 Mill Creek Valley-Alma
330 Eskridge
378 Riley County
384 Blue Valley
415 Hiawatha
425 Highland
430 South Brown County
491 Eudora
498 Valley Heights

SOUTHEAST REGION

243 Lebo-Waverly
245 LeRoy-Gridley
252 Southern Lyon County
256 Marmaton Valley
258 Humboldt
*283 Elk Valley
284 Chase County
285 Cedar Vale
286 Chautauqua Co.-Sedan
287 West Franklin
289 Wellsville
344 Pleasanton
346 Jayhawk
366 Yates Center
387 Altoona-Midway
390 Hamilton
397 Centre
398 Peabody-Burns
411 Goessel
420 Osage City
421 Lyndon
447 Cherryvale
461 Neodesha
462 Central
471 Dexter
479 Crest
492 Flinthills

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

104 White Rock-Esbon
237 Smith Center
240 Twin Valley
269 Palco
270 Plainville
272 Waconda
273 Beloit
278 Mankato
306 Southeast of Saline
307 Ell-Saline
311 Pretty Prairie
324 Eastern Heights
325 Phillipsburg
326 Logan
395 LaCrosse
403 Otis-Bison
*427 Republic County

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

255 South Barber
300 Comanche
332 Cunningham
347 Kinsley-Offerle
354 Claflin
355 Ellinwood
358 Oxford
359 Argonia
376 Sterling
*382 Pratt County
423 Moundridge
424 Mullinville
438 Skyline
*474 Haviland
496 Pawnee Heights
509 South Haven
511 Attica

For more information contact:
Schools for Quality Education Inc.
124 Bluemont Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
(913)532-5886

NORTHWEST REGION

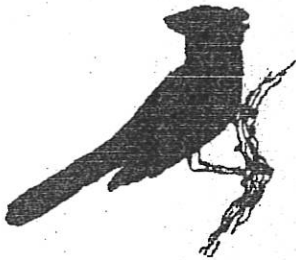
208 WaKeeney
212 Northern Valley
213 West Solomon Valley
241 Wallace County
242 Weskan
275 Triplains-Winona
280 West Graham-Morland
281 Hill City
291 Grinnell
292 Wheatland
293 Quinter
316 Golden Plains
318 Atwood
467 Leoti
468 Healy

SOUTHWEST REGION

209 Moscow
210 Hugoton
214 Ulysses
217 Rolla
218 Elkhart
219 Minneola
220 Ashland
225 Fowler
228 Hanston
374 Sublette
381 Spearville
452 Stanton
459 Bucklin
476 Copeland
477 Ingalls
494 Syracuse
507 Satanta

*Senate Education
Attachment 9
1-29-98*

(108 members)
Current as of January 13, 1998
*Denotes new members



Dexter Unified District 471

Telephone (316) 876-5415
Fax Number (316) 876-5548
P.O. Box 97 • Dexter, Kansas 67038

January 27, 1998

Senate Education Committee
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66601

Madame Chair,

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 481. In the essence of time, I will keep my comments brief.

The State of Kansas has open enrollment. Basically, parents of Kansas's school children can send their children to the school of their choice as long as they arrange transportation. I applaud the freedom of choice offered.

The choice parents make to send their children to districts outside their residence is usually accompanied by a strong feeling that it will better their educational opportunities. In our case, non-resident students come to Dexter for that very ideal. We offer a better student-teacher ratio, state-of-the-art technology, and a caring faculty. Parents making this choice would be penalized for this decision if the bill became law. Regardless of whether one believes in weighted enrollment or not, the loss of the weighting would, in our case, translate to decreased funding which would affect education opportunities to all.

Raw figures show that we have twenty-seven out-of-district students. Twenty-four of them come from either Winfield or Arkansas City. They come for specific reasons previously cited. They represent nearly 15% of our student population.

As I became alarmed about this situation, I called the State Education Department finance office. When the figures were finalized, I was more alarmed with the fact our district would lose in excess of \$37,000. I was told we were one of only a few who would lose because our out-of-district students come from larger schools.

The bottom line to this scenario is that passage of this bill would hurt kids through lost educational opportunities. I question whether this is the intent of the legislature. Please don't send that type of message to the students and parents in the State of Kansas.

In conclusion, I would ask that the legislative body seek stability when dealing with the finance formula. The constant attempts to "fine-tune" the formula seem to stem from a philosophy of how it can help a particular group of schools. Help for one group seems to set a situation that simply hurts others. District administrators and boards of education find that the constant tinkering make it difficult to budget for next year and nearly impossible to budget for long term. The current formula, along with LOB's, allows most districts the financial flexibility to provide a stable situation in which Kansas schools can operate. I ask that this committee and both legislative houses allow the formula to work as it was intended.

Sincerely,

Jerry Golden, Superintendent
USD 471
Dexter, KS 67038

BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Drake
Rich Helsel
Tom Jackson
Jack Massey
Roberta Shelton
Kathy Rush
Jennifer Pudden

ADMINISTRATION

JERRY GOLDEN
Superintendent

ROBERT G. HOLMES
Principal

DONNA M. BERKLEY
Secretary/Clerk

Testimony on SB 481
before the
Kansas Senate Education Committee
by
Michael J. Wilson
Superintendent of Schools, USD #329--Mill Creek Valley
Secretary-Treasurer, Schools For Quality Education

January 29, 1998

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I would like to present this testimony in opposition to SB 481, a bill which would directly benefit no public school district, but has been written to harm certain districts.

Last year we were told that the legislature did not want to write educational legislation which would directly hurt any group of school districts. However, as proposed, this is exactly what SB 481 would do. The total amount of money saved by this bill would be minimal, yet the only schools who would be hurt would be the small schools.

With last year's passage of HB 2098, the bus bill, the legislature gave their stamp of approval to children being allowed to go to the district of their choice. We heard the cry of "Free Choice" loud and clear among the supporters of public school education in the State of Kansas. This is what the legislature wanted, and when they passed HB 2098, that is exactly what they received. Also included in that bill was the idea that receiving districts would not be punished financially for accepting those out-of-district students. SB 481 is a slap in the face to those ideals which were established last year: the ideals of free choice to parents of out-of-district children without the threat of financial retaliation.

When the present school finance formula was established earlier this decade, the concept of low enrollment weighting as presently employed was accepted not only by the legislature, but also by the courts. Through research, both agreed that it cost more to educate a child in a smaller school than it did in a larger school. SB 481 essentially says, yes it may cost more to educate one of your out-of-district children in your small school, but we're not going to give you full state aid because we're upset with that child's parents because they decided to send their child to your school district.

Finally, this bill will create a nightmare of paperwork. A school district budget is hard enough to build now. SB 481 would make it a lot harder. Under SB 481 a superintendent will not only have to know how much state aid a student living in his own district will generate, but how much state aid any out-of-district student will generate in his/her district of residency. Some school districts in Kansas have out-of-district students living in 5-6 other districts. It doesn't take much imagination to see the budgetary problems this bill will generate.

In conclusion, I would like to state that I believe SB 481 is bad legislation. It is retaliatory in nature and conflicts with prior research and the spirit of free choice in public education. I urge you to not allow this bill out of committee.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

January 29, 1998


Senator Barbara Lawrence
Senate Education Committee
Room 255-E, State Capitol
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Madame Chairperson:

I am opposed to the passage of S. B. 481 for the following reason:

Last legislative session, H. B. 2098 gave parents living more than ten miles from an attendance center in their home district more flexibility in where to send their children to school. If S. B. 481 becomes law, those same parents may choose where to send their children to school but the local board of education of the receiving district may choose not to receive the children because of the potential loss of state aid. There seems to be a contradiction here!

Respectfully Yours,



Duane H. Rankin

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Denis Wallace, President

Beverly Benton, Vice-President

Virgil Salem, Member

Bob Unruh, Jr., Member

Rod Blackwelder, Member

John Herman, Member

Bill Hommertzhaim, Member

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 258
ALLEN COUNTY, KANSAS
910 NEW YORK STREET, HUMBOLDT, KANSAS 66748-1857
TELEPHONE (316) 473-3121
FAX (316) 473-2023

ANNA E. COLE
CLERK

STEVE PARSONS
SUPERINTENDENT

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FROM: STEVE PARSONS *SP*
SUBJECT: SB 481
DATE: 01/26/98
CC:

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information regarding SB 481. I will try to be brief and deal with facts as much as possible.

My school district, Humboldt USD 258, is annually being faced with the challenge of providing a quality education to the students of the district with less money than was available the year before. This is primarily due to a declining enrollment and the small increases in state funding. Our budgets for the last three years are shown below:

	<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Local Option Budget</u>	<u>Total</u>
1994-95	\$3,434,685	\$0	\$3,434,685
1995-96	\$3,410,873	\$0	\$3,410,873
1996-97	\$3,178,088	\$0	\$3,178,088
1997-98	\$3,148,126	\$50,370	\$3,198,496

Costs have continued to escalate yet our budget has declined. Even with a local option budget, our current budget is \$236,189 less than it was for the 1994-95 school year. The declining enrollments have not been to the extent that there can be a reduction in staff or other reductions in fixed costs without having a negative effect on programs and the quality of education provided to our students. Add the inflation factor to the above figures and you can see that our district is losing purchasing power in a time when we need to be looking at new programs, technology, etc. We can only delay the purchase of buses and replacing roofs for so long.

Now our district is faced with potentially another decrease in state funding should SB 481 be passed. I am amazed that such a bill is being considered. I believe that it is obvious that there is an "economy of scale" regarding the cost of educating students in schools of different sizes. Our district has become involved with the use of interactive distance learning in an effort to provide a quality comprehensive education for our students. I came to this district two years ago from a larger

district and can easily see how services and programs are more expensive, per pupil, in a smaller district.

The negative effect of SB 481 on my district would be substantial. This year we have fifteen out-of-district students who attend school in our district. Thirteen of those students come from three neighboring districts that are larger than this district. Two students come from a district whose enrollment is smaller. I estimate that my district would lose approximately \$1400 per student because of SB 481. My quick math tells me that approximately \$18,000 would be taken from our general fund as a result.

I realize that \$18,000 may seem rather minor in a three million dollar budget, but if you review the budget history listed below you will see that this is but one more straw on our camel's back. Our district has also had the unexpected expense of paying a health insurance assessment and a major electric bill because of confusion during a recent construction project. Our district has chosen to implement a Local Option Budget this year in an effort to compensate for the declining state aid. When schools are forced to use Local Option Budgets to finance education, the result is the inequity of educational opportunities for students. Are we headed back to pre-1992 and more legal challenges to the whole school finance plan? The implementation of SB 481 would, in effect, cancel the proposed increase in the base state aid per pupil for this district and undoubtedly result in another decrease in our budget.

I believe that the bottom line in this issue is not what effect this bill has on my district or any other district. I believe that the bottom line is what does it cost to provide a quality education for the student at the location in which he/she is receiving the service. It is fact that it will cost my district more to educate a student than it will in the larger districts around me. Yet, this bill would compel me to either educate the child for "less than cost", to use a business term, or refuse to allow the student to attend our schools. Will this bill be yet another step toward making education more business oriented and less people oriented? I certainly hope that the time will not come when I will have to tell a parent, "I know that this is the best place for the child to receive an education but I cannot afford to allow your student to go to school here."

Thank you for your consideration of the information provided in this memo. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in this or any other matter. Providing a quality education to students is important to all of us.



"Home Of
The Eagles"

SUPERINTENDENT

K-12 PRINCIPAL

Wayne Lindsey

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Barbara Roemer, Clerk

Sharon Schadel, Secretary

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bill Taldo, President

Joe Cramer, Vice Pres.

Stephen Fenster

Denise Jennison

Walter Johnson

Daniel Sharp

Janet York

U.S.D. 468 – Healy Public Schools

5006 N. Dodge Road • Healy, Kansas 67850-9764 • (316) 398-2248 • Fax (316) 398-2435

January 27, 1998

Senator Larry Salmons
State Senate Building
Topeka, KS

Dear Mr. Salmons:

I understand that the Senate Education Committee will be holding hearings on SB481. I would like to exercise my privilege of voicing my concern for this legislation.

SB481 sounds like another attempt to take money away from the small schools. Currently we have 24 out of Dighton, Scott City, Quinter, and Grinnell School Districts. Most of these students attend school here because of our small class size and the individual attention they can receive. Looking at the above four districts, I calculate that Healy, USD 468 could lose around \$50,000. I do not see any provision in this proposal that would help us in lowering the cost of educating these students.

I am amazed that any attempt is being made to lower the amount of funds going to any school district in the State of Kansas based upon the projected carry-over monies that is available to the State. Education and educational funding has always been a political football and has always been the final appropriation that is approved. Mr. Salmons, I know this is not the case, but it appears that supporting education is the last priority of the legislative body in Topeka. Special interest groups, and many times the compensation of Representatives and Senators becomes far more important than the education of our youth, which just happens to be the greatest and

Equal Opportunity
Employer

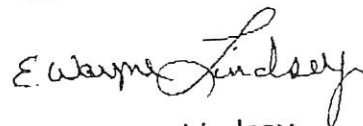
9-8

most important resource this State or any State has within its boundries.

I ask you to utilize any influence you have to make sure SB481 does not become law and that you continue to use your influence to promote additional monies to education during this time of economic growth in our State.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



E. Wayne Lindsey

William E. Grimes, Superintendent

January 27, 1998

Senator Barbara Lawrence, Chairperson
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Senator Lawrence:

My comments are in reference to Senate Bill 481.

People send their children to school in districts other than their residence location for a wide variety of reasons. Some want their children to attend larger schools for the wider curricular and co-curricular offerings, or because it is just more convenient for their situation. Others choose to send their children to the smaller, more personalized setting, often because that is where they received their own education, and they know the value of smallness in a learning environment. This environment is, however, more expensive to maintain. It is admittedly, not as efficient to operate as the larger setting. That increased cost is partially offset by "low enrollment weighting". The Kansas Legislature has agreed to fund this differential in the past. Senate Bill 481 would show great favoritism toward large schools, by penalizing the small receiving schools and asking them to educate students for the same amount as their larger, more efficient neighbors.

In Moundridge, USD 423 would lose \$4,808 per year for the 11 students who live in the McPherson District, and attend school here in Moundridge. For the other 19 students that attend here, we would also lose money to Innman, Hesston, and Canton Galva, and gain a few dollars from Goessel.



Respectfully,



William E. Grimes
Superintendent

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 507

Home of the Fighting Indians

100 Caddo  P.O. Box 279  Satanta, Kansas 67870

Phone: 316-649-2234

Fax: 316-649-2668

Senator Barbara Lawrence
Senate Education Committee

RE: Senate Bill No. 481

Dear Madam Chairperson:

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 481. I oppose it for several reasons.

First, it will work an extreme hardship on districts that are close urban areas that have students coming from these areas and not being able to count them the same as their district students for budget purposes.

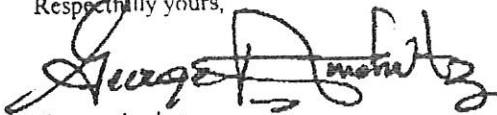
Secondly, the amount that is spent per pupil varies from district to district, even though districts may not be close to an urban area. They too would be affected by students coming in from other districts and our students going out to other districts. This would be the case in my district.

Thirdly, it is going to be extremely difficult in some instances where students come to live with relatives and the relatives are responsible for them, or children in foster care. How are these students to be counted? Will they be counted in the district in which they came from or can you count them as your district students. It is going to be extremely difficult to determine where the students home district is.

Last, I feel it will lead to districts closing their boundary lines and possibly creating hardships for students that live closer to one attendance center than the other. In this instance, it could create an extreme hardship on the students and their parents. Further, in my judgment this would be in direct conflict with HB 2098 that was past last year that gave parents latitude where their children might attend school.

USD #507's situation of these students is not as high as it is in some of the schools around this area, however it will certainly have an effect on all schools. I would urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 481.

Respectfully yours,



George Anshutz
Superintendent USD #507



SKYLINE SCHOOLS U.S.D. 438



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
A. C. BOLAND, JR.

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL
HERB McPIERSON

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
DEBORAH LEE COX

20269 W. U.S. HIGHWAY 54
PRATT, KANSAS 67124-8204

PHONE: (316) 672-5651
FAX: (316) 672-9377

BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROBERT HOWELL, PRESIDENT
GARY CURTIS, VICE-PRESIDENT
LAVETTA KELLER
ALLAN PAGENKOPF
RON SCHWERDTFEGER
WILLIAM GALLAUGHIER
KAY SMITH

January 28, 1997

Dear Senate Education Committee:

Please allow me to address some concerns I have about SB 481, which concerns enrollment weighting for out-of-district students. My district, USD 438, for a variety of reasons, has a high percentage of out-of-district enrollees so we have a vested interest in this legislation.

On the surface, it may appear that it is unfair to allow a higher budget per pupil for out-of-district students in the district they attend than they would receive in their district of residence. However, below the surface, there are overriding reasons why it is in the best interests of the state to continue the present system which allows enrollment of out-of-district students without financial penalty in the form of a reduced budget-per-pupil.

One reason is this allows the public a form of school choice. We have several out-of-district students attending in our district because:

1. A parent is employed by our district and it is logistically beneficial for the students and parent to be in the same district,
2. The student(s) attended in our district, then moved out of district and prefer to continue their schooling without the upset of changing schools, and
3. Our schools are recognized as providers of quality education and become the schools of choice because of that.

This proposed legislation, SB 481, seems to be in direct philosophical opposition to the legislation passed last year which allows school districts to enter other school districts and transport students. That legislation seemed to encourage school choice while SB 481 seems to have the opposite effect.

There are three reasons why it may be in the state's financial interest to continue the present method of financing relative to out-of-district students.

Reason 1: If all students were educated in their home districts, there are some districts whose facilities would not accommodate those students who now attend out-of-district. If those home districts are forced to build new facilities, and the state pays a portion of the capital costs, that could be quite expensive for the state.

Reason 2. There would be added transportation reimbursement costs for the state if students who presently attend out-of district and provide their own transportation were to go back to their home district and ride the home-district-bus to school.

Reason 3. If all out-of-district students return to their home districts instead of attending USD 438, the low enrollment weighting would go up for the remaining USD 438 students, thus creating additional state aid costs.

Accounting problems are another reason SB 491 should not become law. Districts will have to rely on ever-changing information from other districts which will further complicate the budgeting and auditing processes.

This legislation is poor public policy. It will add unnecessary bureaucracy, it will decrease educational opportunities, and could very well end up costing more in state aid.

For the reasons outlined above, please oppose SB 481. Thank you.

Sincerely,



A. C. Boland

Sedgwick Unified School District No. 439

Kevin Stucky
High School Principal
Phone 772-5155

POST OFFICE BOX K
SEDGWICK, KANSAS 67135

PHONE (316) 772-5783
FAX (316) 772-0274

Chris K. Dechant
Grade School Principal
Phone 772-5604

Michael D. Hull, Superintendent

January 27, 1998

TO: Jim Allen, Kansas Education Coalition Representative

FROM: Michael D. Hull, USD 439 Sedgwick

REASON: S.B. 481

Please convey to the appropriate committee that S.B. 481 is not good legislation. I would oppose this bill for these reasons:

1. S.B. 481's language is vague and would be difficult to regulate.
2. It appears to be a means to "punish" small schools who receive low enrollment weighting and accept out of district students.
3. We constantly hear that schools need to compete and do more by offering a solid education for students. The opportunity for us to accept out of district students on a case by case basis makes us do a better job for all children.
4. In the case of my own district, I have students who are considered out of district but live closer to our attendance centers than those in the school district where they reside.
5. I have out of district students who attend in my district who also have local postal addresses; their parents own businesses or work in my community; the families attend church in our town or they have close historical ties to our school.

*Senate Education
Attachment 10
1-29-98*

Please convey my feelings to the appropriate senate committee members.
Should there be similar legislation pending in the house during the 1998
session, feel free to use this letter again.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael D. Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael D. Hull