

Approved: 1-27-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 1998 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Robin Kempf, Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Ann Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cindee Stratton, Kansas Heart Association
Esther Kottwitz, Executive Director, Brookcreek Learning Center, Lawrence
Elaine McCullough, Program Director, Brookcreek Learning Center, Lawrence
Dale M. Dennis, Commission of Education, Kansas State Department of Education

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of Bills

Cindee Stratton, Kansas Heart Association, requested introduction of a bill that would allow public access to automatic external defibrillators. Senator Hardenburger made a motion that the Committee recommend introduction of the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Salmans. The motion carried.

Report on At-risk Preschool Children

Esther Kottwitz and Elaine McCullough, Brookcreek Learning Center, briefed the Committee on the background of the Learning Center which provides a full day early intervention program for 107 children in Lawrence ages infant to five years. Many children at Brookcreek are members of low income, multi-problem families. Some children experience physical and emotional abuse, neglect, poor nutrition and poor health care. Brookcreek is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. It was pointed out that Brookcreek receives funding from several sources such as United Way, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, grant awards from Community Development block Grant, the Lawrence Housing Authority, and the Kansas Health Foundation. Brookcreek also contracts with the Lawrence Public Schools to provide services for young children with disabilities, and in addition, Brookcreek receives in-kind and financial donations as noted in their written testimony. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion related to funding sources of Brookcreek, potential problems in hiring personnel at the Center, follow-up or tracking of children in their later years, possible use of parents as teachers, and the importance of working with children and families early before numerous problems develop.

Dale M. Dennis, Commissioner of Education, Kansas State Department of Education, addressed the Committee and emphasized the importance of early intervention for at-risk children. Commissioner Dennis noted that there are two programs, at-risk and bilingual education, that are part of the state school finance formula. Information was provided to the Committee regarding the number of school districts participating in these programs as well as the percentage weighting factor, the amount generated per pupil and the state-wide appropriation as outlined in his written testimony. (Attachment 2)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 1998.



Brookcreek Learning Center provides a full day early intervention program for 107 children ages infant to 5 years. Many children at Brookcreek are members of low income, multi-problem families. Some children experience physical and emotional abuse, neglect, poor nutrition, and poor health care. These factors have a tremendous negative impact upon child development. Through structured work and play activities, children learn social, motor, language, cognitive, and self-help skills which are appropriate to their individual developmental needs. Brookcreek provides a remedial skills training curriculum and behavior therapy to children who have learning and behavior problems, as well as an individualized early education program for typically developing children.

A central focus of the program is to provide all children with the skills and abilities necessary for successful learning and positive social interaction in public school.

Brookcreek operates one preschool classroom at the Edgewood Housing Project, one preschool classroom at New York Elementary School, one preschool at Cordley School as well as central offices, a kitchen, an infant/toddler program and a preschool classroom at 200 Mt. Hope Court. Brookcreek is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children are served breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack daily. The children at Brookcreek greatly benefit from special activities such as music lessons provided by KU Music Therapy program, special presentations presented by Bert Nash staff and other community agencies, one-to-one activities provided by community volunteers and students, and integrated Speech-Language, Physical, and Occupational therapies within the classroom as provided in cooperation with the Lawrence Public Schools.

Brookcreek maintains a ratio of at least 1 adult per 5 preschoolers and 1 adult per 3 infants and toddlers. The Executive Director, Program Coordinator and Lead Preschool Teachers (one in each classroom) have earned Master's Degrees in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education as well as earned Kansas teaching certifications in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. The Infant Interventionist has an earned Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and Child Development. Support staff members are primarily university students majoring in areas of social welfare, speech and language therapy, and early childhood education.

Brookcreek is a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency governed by a volunteer board of directors. Brookcreek is a United Way agency. Brookcreek contracts with Social Rehabilitation Services for child tuition and the Child and Adult Food Program for meal reimbursement. Brookcreek receives grant awards from Community Development Block Grant, the Lawrence Housing Authority, and the Kansas Health Foundation. Brookcreek contracts with the Lawrence Public Schools to provide services for young children with disabilities. In addition, Brookcreek receives in-kind and financial donations.

200 Mt. Hope Ct.
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 865-0022
Fax 865-0088

Senate Public Health and Welfare
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Attachment No. /

"Dedicated to the healthy development of all young"

Brookcreek Learning Center

200 Mt. Hope Court
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785)865-0022

- * Esther Kottwitz, Executive Director
 - M.A. Early Childhood Education and Behavior Analysis
 - Ph.D. coursework and research 176 hours completed
 - Kansas teaching certifications Early Childhood and EC Special Education
 - Experience working for KU Life Span Institute grant projects in research, early childhood curriculum development and national ECSE team training
 - 10 years at Brookcreek

- * Elaine McCullough, Program Director
 - M.S. Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education
 - Kansas teaching certification in EC Special Education
 - 20 years classroom and administrative experience in early childhood and early childhood special education across the state of Kansas
 - 5 years at Brookcreek

- * Brookcreek serves 107 children and their families.

- * Brookcreek enrolls children who have identified disabilities, children who are typically developing, and children who are at-risk for learning and behavior problems.

- * Brookcreek provides an individualized education plan for all children.

- * Brookcreek prioritizes the enrollment of children from very low income, multi-problem families.

- * KSDHE licensing requires a preschool teacher:child ratio of 2:20. Brookcreek provides a preschool teacher:child ratio of no less than 4:20.

- * Brookcreek provides individualized parent training and case management for all enrolled children and their families.

- * History of Brookcreek
 - Lawrence Housing Authority 1981-1986 basic child care
 - Lawrence Housing Authority 1987-1990 early intervention 22 preschool
 - New York Elementary School 1993 20 preschool
 - Mt. Hope Court Site 1994 19 preschool, 17 toddler, 9 infant
 - Cordley Elementary School 1997 20 preschool

- * Typical daycare is not enough for children of parents entering the workforce.

- * **Children who are "at-risk" will succeed in learning and social interaction with no less than full-time early intervention programs.**

- * Case Studies



Kansas State Department of Education

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

January 21, 1998

TO: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: At-Risk Programs

I appreciate the opportunity to share with the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee information about the at-risk programs currently administered by the State Department of Education.

There are two programs, At-Risk and Bilingual Education, that are part of the state school finance formula. Tables I and II provide the number of school districts participating in these programs as well as the percentage weighting factor, the amount generated per pupil, and the state-wide appropriation.

There are other programs that impact at-risk children that are funded with federal monies. In most cases, these funds are distributed under a formula outlined by the U.S. Department of Education. Table III provides a list of federal programs that impact at-risk pupils.

Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services

785-296-3871 (phone)
785-296-0459 (fax)
785-296-6338 (TTY)
www.ksbe.state.ks.us

Senate Public Health & Welfare
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State Programs that Impact At Risk Students

**Table I
At Risk Weighting**

School Year	Number of USDs with At Risk Programs	Free Lunch Students	At Risk Weighting	Percentage Factor	Amount Per Pupil	Total Statewide Amount
1992-93	185	72,564	3,632.3	5%	\$180.00	\$13,076,280
1993-94	278	100,750	5,044.8	5%	180.00	18,161,280
1994-95	290	105,344	5,274.7	5%	180.00	18,988,920
1995-96	300	107,281	5,371.7	5%	181.30	19,477,784
1996-97	301	108,009	5,408.6	5%	182.40	19,730,573
(est.) 1997-98	303	112,730	7,327.6	6.5%	238.55	26,892,292

**Table II
Bilingual Weighting**

School Year	Number of USDs with Bilingual Programs	Bilingual Weighting	Percentage Factor	Amount Per Pupil	Total Statewide Amount
1992-93	34	195.5	20%	\$720.00	\$703,800
1993-94	40	496.3	20%	720.00	1,786,680
1994-95	39	589.3	20%	720.00	2,121,480
1995-96	50	861.8	20%	725.20	3,124,887
1996-97	53	1,153.5	20%	729.60	4,207,968
(est.) 1997-98	58	1,414.5	20%	734.00	5,191,215

FEDERAL FUNDS THAT IMPACT AT-RISK STUDENTS

Name: *Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I Basic, and Concentration)*

Amount: \$53,947,411.

Purpose: To improve the education opportunities of educationally deprived children by helping them succeed in the regular school program, attain grade level proficiency, and improve achievement in basic and more advanced skills.

Name: *Education for Homeless Children and Youth*

Amount: \$182,108.

Purpose: To provide activities for and services to ensure that homeless children and homeless youths enroll in, attend, and achieve in school; to establish or designate an office in each State educational agency (SEA) for the coordination of education for homeless children and youth and to provide grants to local educational agencies.

Name: *Even Start - State Educational Agencies*

Amount: \$793,771.

Purpose: To provide family-centered education projects to help parents become full partners in the education of their children, to assist children in reaching their full potential as learners, and to provide literacy training for their parents.

Name: *Migrant Education - Basic State Grant Program*

Amount: \$9,111,970.

Purpose: To assist States to ensure that migratory children have the opportunity to meet the same challenging State content and performance standards that all children are expected to meet.

Name: *Emergency Immigrant Education*

Amount: \$555,164.

Purpose: To provide assistance to States for educational services and costs for immigrant children enrolled in elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools. States provide funding to those local educational agencies (LEAs) whose enrollment of immigrant children in elementary and secondary public and nonpublic schools is at least 500 or three percent of the total enrollment. To be counted, immigrant children must have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than 3 years.