

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 9:30 a.m. on April 16, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Corbin, excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

**School Finance**

The Committee reviewed responses from approximately 180 school district administrators who had been asked to comment on the effect on their district of the Governor's original school finance proposal. Administrators commented on a number of hardships they would face, including difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified staff, meeting rising costs for utilities, and providing special education services.

The staff presented information on a variety of issues, including alternative tax increase options and material on the state's current revenue situation. Committee members discussed their strategy and concluded that any proposal they made for a school finance plan also should include recommendations on how the plan should be financed.

Chairman Umbarger asked members of the Committee to indicate preferences for several components of a school finance plan.

Senators Lee and Teichman proposed the following plan:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,920
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,700
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	3,102
Special Education	90%
Extended Learning	\$10
Total Cost	\$100.9 million

Senator Oleen proposed the following:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,910
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,700
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	3,102
Special Education	88%
Extended Learning	\$22
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	1.0 million
Alternative Compensation	1.0 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$96.8 million

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Senator Hensley proposed the following:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,910
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,700
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	5,500
Special Education	87%
Extended Learning	\$20
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	2.5 million
Alternative Compensation	1.0 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$99.9 million

Senator Downey proposed the following:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,910
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,690
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	5,500
Special Education	87%
Extended Learning	\$20
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	2.5 million
Alternative Compensation	1.0 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$104.1 million

Senator Vratil proposed the following:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,900
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,680
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	2,666
Special Education	88%
Extended Learning	\$30
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	2.5 million
Alternative Compensation	1.0 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$103.6 million

Senator Lee proposed the following:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,920
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,710
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	5,500
Special Education	90%
Extended Learning	\$10
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	0.0 million
Alternative Compensation	0.0 million
School Finance Study	0.0 million
Total Cost	\$102.2 million

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From the proposals, the Committee calculated a composite or "average" plan, with the following components:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,910
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,700
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	4,410
Special Education	88%
Extended Learning	\$20
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	1.5 million
Alternative Compensation	1.0 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$99.4 million

The cost of the average plan, \$99.4 million, is an increase of \$57 million over the Governor's original proposal.

Turning the Committee's attention to how the proposal would be funded, Chairman Umbarger proposed an increase of 0.2 percent in the sales tax, which would generate an estimated \$75 million in additional revenues. Senator Umbarger explained that the increase would fund the proposed elementary-secondary proposal as well as provide \$4.0 million for technology expenditures and \$6.0 million for utilities for public universities. Senator Oleen explained the addition for higher education in the context of the Legislature's commitment to provide enhanced funding for all postsecondary education sectors that was made in 1999 when SB345 was enacted. In her view, which was shared by other members, the Education Committee of the Senate had the opportunity to indicate its support for all of education by recommending a plan that benefitted all educational sectors.

Senator Umbarger indicated that his revenue proposal also would generate funding to increase the food sales tax credit by \$5.0 million.

Senator Jenkins proposed that no new revenues be generated, but that the ending balance law be changed to reduce the necessary ending balance from 7.5 percent of expenditures to 6.0 percent, thus freeing revenue that could be used for the education proposal.

Senator Hensley proposed that an estate tax applicable to non-blood heirs be imposed.

Senator Vratil proposed that special education be counted as part of general state aid in order to expand the base for purposes of determining local option budgets.

Meeting adjourned.