

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 A.M. on March 7, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Pat Colloton- excused
Tom Holland- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Jim Edwards, KASB
Sandra Hazlett, SRS
Dale Dennis, KSDE
Verl Peter, KSDE

SB 485 - Concerning school districts; relating to suspension or expulsion of pupils.

Diane Gherstad appeared as a proponent of **SB 485**. (Attachment 1).

Questions and answers followed.

Jim Edwards appeared as a proponent of **SB 485**. (Attachment 2).

The hearing on **SB 485** was closed.

Sandra Hazlett appeared before the Committee to address the issue of tracking the school records transfer for Kansas foster children. (Attachment 3).

Dale Dennis and Verl Peter gave a power point presentation regarding online school records. (Attachment 4),

A question and answer session followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2005.



**House Education Committee
Rep. Decker, Chair**

Senate Bill 485 – amending appeal hearing timeframe

Diane Gjerstad

March 7, 2007

Madame Chair, members of the Committee:

S. B. 485 is a simple bill which cleans up in current statute the time-frame for parents requesting appeal hearings for a student who has been suspended or expelled. We are asking for this language because the current statute is difficult to understand and is very difficult to explain to an upset parent.

The issue:

K.S.A. 72-8904 requires school boards to hear an appeal within 20 calendar days after the appeal request is made, and to make an appeal decision within 5 calendar days after the hearing. When a board meets only once a month, it is sometimes impossible to meet the statutory requirement. The only way to meet the requirements of the statute in such cases is to hold a special meeting. It is especially difficult to schedule a special meeting during the December holidays and spring break, when school employees needed at a hearing are off-contract. The passage of Senate Bill 485 would eliminate the need for special meetings. A board would still be acting expeditiously in that decisions would still be made at the first available regularly scheduled board meeting.

What is the current system for appeals during months in which there is one Board meeting?

The current system is that the parent/guardian is asked to sign a waiver of the statutory timeline. If the parent/guardian declines to sign the timeline waiver, the board needs to hold a special meeting to make the appeal decision. When asked to sign a timeline waiver, parents often do not understand the reason for the waiver, may sign it with some apprehension, or refuse to sign it. These issues will be resolved by S. B. 485.

How will the requirements of parents and districts be changed by SB 485?

Under Senate Bill 485, the parent requirements will not be changed. School districts will still be required to provide school assignments to students, and to honor Special Education and ADA/504 accommodations.

What does this bill do?

When a board meets once a month, the proposed revision gives a board the ability to make an appeal decision at its **next regularly scheduled** board meeting rather than hold a special board meeting.

Is this bill supported by other districts?

Kansas school boards have demonstrated support for this revision of K.S.A. 72-8904 through Resolution 5, Student Disciplinary Hearings, of the 2005 Kansas Association of School Boards Legislative Proposal. According to KASB, 84% of Kansas boards hold regular meetings only once a month.

Madame Chair, this bill will help make a difficult process easier to explain to parents while still requiring Boards to act in a timely manner. There was no opposition in the Senate. Thank you for your consideration

House Education Committee
Date: 3-7-06
Attachment # 1-1

December 2005

Appeal Scheduling Example

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
			December 1	2	3
					4
5	6	7	8	9	10
			Parent delivers appeal request.	Day 1	Day 2
					11
					Day 3
12	13	14	15	16	17
Day 4 6:00pm BOE Meeting	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
					18
					Day 10
Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16
					24
					25
				First day of Winter Recess	Day 17
26	27	28	29	30	31
Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 1 - Decision Notice	Day 2 - Decision Notice	Day 3 - Decision Notice

This example uses the current statutory timeline in K.S.A. 72-8904. An appeal request arrives on December 8, 2005. It is too late for the appeal hearing to be scheduled, for the parent to receive 5 days written notification for a hearing, and for the Board to make a decision at its regular meeting on December 12. The 20-day hearing timeline begins on December 9 and ends on December 28, which is during Winter Recess. The 5-day timeline for the Board's decision to be delivered to the parent ends on January 2, the last day of Winter Recess. The Board's next regular meeting is on January 9, 2006. The example above illustrates the statutory timeline issues for all appeal requests received from December 8-13, 2005. For boards that meet once per month, it applies for 3-6 days each month depending on the number of days in the month.

January 2006

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					January 1, 2006
					Day 4 - Decision
2	3	4	5	6	7
Day 5 - Decision due. Last day of Winter Recess					8
9	10	11	12	13	14
6:00pm BOE Meeting					15
					21
16	17	18	19	20	21
					22
					28
23	24	25	26	27	28
					29
30	31				

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



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Testimony on **SB 485**
before the
House Education Committee

by

Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 7, 2006

Chairman Decker and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear as a proponent for **SB 485**, a measure which would provide more flexibility to school districts, especially larger districts, in the scheduling of student disciplinary hearings.

In large districts, where there is the possibility of a large number of hearings, it is important local boards be given more flexibility to schedule these hearings. As amended, **SB 485** would allow the board to render its decision not later than the next regularly-scheduled meeting of the board following the date of the conclusion of the hearing of the appeal by the hearing officer. The law, as now written, requires the decision to be made no later than five days after the hearing of the appeal. In Kansas, 84 percent of the districts hold only one meeting a month.

Thank you for allowing me to appear on this important matter and I would respond to questions.

House Education Committee

Date: 3-7-06

Attachment # 2

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary J. Daniels, Secretary

House Education Committee

March 7, 2006

**Tracking School Records Transfer
for
Kansas Foster Children**

**Integrated Service Delivery
Sandra Hazlett**

For additional information contact:

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House Education Committee

Date: 3-7-06

Attachment # 2-1

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Gary J. Daniels, Secretary

House Education Committee
March 7, 2006

Tracking School Records Transfer

Chair Decker and members of the committee, I am Sandra Hazlett, Director of Children and Family Services for SRS. Per your request, I am here to report on the tracking of school records and progress made since January.

While initial efforts to integrate the requirements of HB 2331 into the existing system were unsuccessful, progress has been made.

Effective February 1, 2006, the paper version of the Educational Enrollment Information Form (EEIF) was discontinued. Retaining both the paper and electronic form was burdensome and delayed effective use of the electronic database. The focus will now be on insuring there is complete and updated information on the electronic database. Only when the parent does not authorize the release as required to enter the child's information into the database prior to enrollment, will the paper EEIF be completed and provided to the school upon enrollment. Every effort will be made to obtain releases in order to eliminate the paper form entirely.

The Documentation of School Records Transfer form was also discontinued. Instead, the provider serving the child notifies SRS central office each time a child in out of home placement transfers to a new school. SRS has assigned staff to collect and record this information. The third working day following receipt of the notice of transfer to a new school, SRS calls the receiving school to ask if the records have been received from the sending school.

If the records have not been received, SRS notifies KSDE the sending school has not transferred the records within the 48 hour time frame identified by this committee as reasonable. SRS will continue to check with the receiving school until the records have been received in order to determine how many days elapse. SRS is tracking the time it takes to transfer records by school district as required by HB 2331.

KSDE has been providing support by communicating expectations to school personnel and by facilitating direct communication between SRS and the special education directors responsible for the foster care database within the school system.

Since SRS began collecting the information centrally on February 1st, over 300 moves have been entered in the data base. Preliminary results (attached) indicate that approximately 90 percent of the school records arrive timely. We will collaborate with KSDE to improve performance so children and their records arrive at school together.

I will stand for questions.

PRELIMINARY REPORT
TRACKING SCHOOL RECORDS TRANSFER
FEBRUARY, 2006

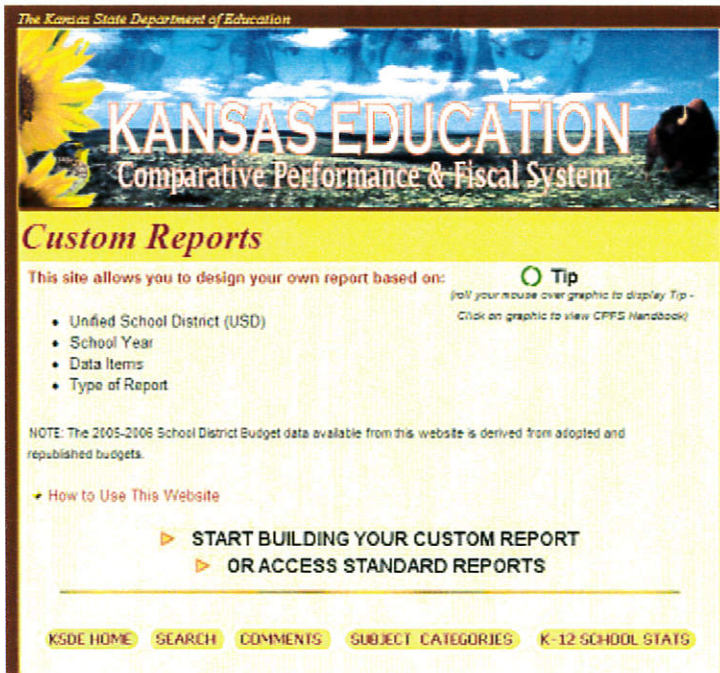
335 Total number of school age children who move.
303 Total number of children who changed schools as the result of move.
282 Total records received by third business day.

School Districts failing to forward records timely for 21 children:

USD 233	1	
USD 501	6	Topeka
USD 450	1	
USD 497	3	Lawrence
USD 500	3	Kansas City
USD 406	1	
USD 508	1	
USD 335	1	
USD 445	1	
USD 290	1	
USD 500	1	
USD 408	1	

Design Custom Reports on KSDE Website

KANSAS EDUCATION Comparative Performance & Fiscal System



<http://cpfs.ksde.org/cpfs/>

Steps to Creating a Custom Report

The first step is to select whose data to compare. Choose from one or more districts, all districts, or districts located in a selected county, state board district, or senate or house district.

Narrow your selection criteria. Choose enrollment headcount size, low income (free and reduced lunch percentage), or special education percentage.

Select a school year. Below is a list of the data options and the earliest school year that can be selected. You can select one year at a time, up to the current school year.

Oldest Data Available	Data Item
2000-01	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Assessed Valuation (all funds except General)
1998-99	<input type="checkbox"/> Mill Levy Rates
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> FTE Enrollment
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Headcount Enrollment
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Average Daily Attendance
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Average Daily Membership
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendance Rate
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Dropout /Graduation Rate
1997-98	<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of Students Approved for Free & Reduced-Price Lunches

(more)

Introduction

The School Finance and Information Technology teams are pleased to announce a new website called **Kansas Education Comparative Performance & Fiscal System**. Now everyone will have the ability to pick and choose selected school district data to design customized reports. Find this website via a link at the top of the School Finance homepage, or go to: <http://cpfs.ksde.org/cpfs/>

Do you want to compare your headcount size to all districts across the state? And then sort it low to high? How about selecting ten districts similar in size to yours to compare mill levy rates, assessed valuation, graduation and dropout rates, and assessment data? Create a custom report in a few minutes.

Help Screens

Move your mouse over "Tip" to display a helpful hint. Click on "Tip" to view CPFS Handbook.

Access Standard Reports

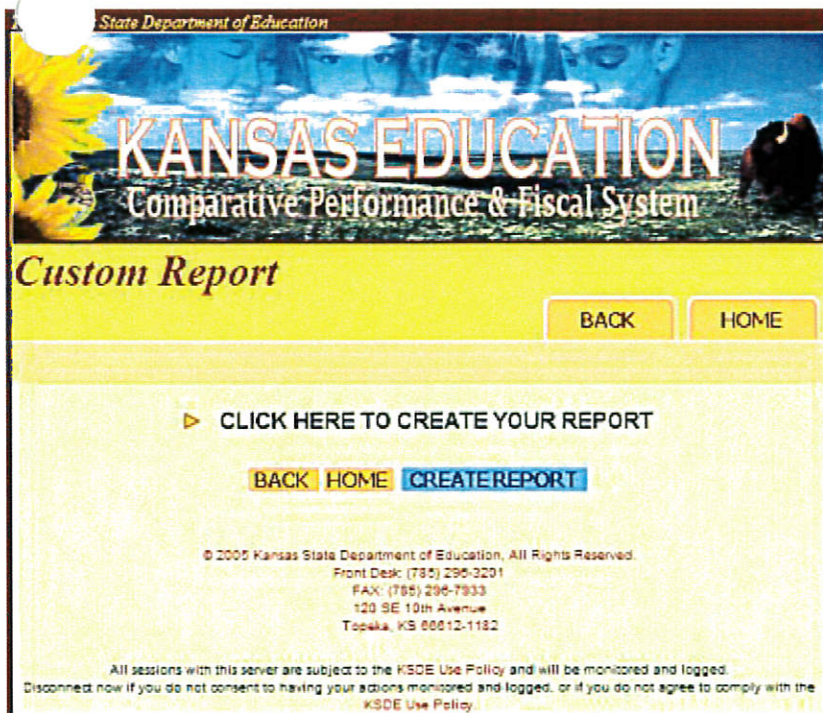
Or if you would prefer to see all districts' data, click on a link called "Access Standard Reports" which opens the **School Finance Data Warehouse** screen. A list of standard reports is shown and by clicking on a link, these reports can be viewed online or printed.

Oldest Data Available	Data Item
2003-04	<input type="checkbox"/> Reading Assessment - Percent Proficient
2003-04	<input type="checkbox"/> Math Assessment - Percent Proficient
2002-03	<input type="checkbox"/> Science Assessment - Percent Proficient (every other year)
2002-03	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies Assessment - Percent Proficient (every other year)
2003-04	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Studies Assessment - Percent Proficient (every other year)
1999-00	<input type="checkbox"/> School District Budget Data

House Education Committee

Date: 3-7-06

Attachment # 4-1



Click on the box next to data item you want to compare – select one or several. Select the box by School District Budget Data to generate revenues or expenditures, fund total or total by function/sub-function. Currently, you can select only one school year at a time.

Click on “**CREATE REPORT**” to generate the report. The amount of time it takes will depend on the speed of your internet server, and the amount of data and number of districts selected.

Click on a column to sort the data in that column in ascending order (low to high), or click the column again to resort in descending order (high to low). Rotate the report to make the columns display as rows.

<http://cpfs.ksde.org/cpfs/>

Click on the “**Export to Excel**” button, and have the option to choose “**Open**” which places the report in Excel online, or “**Save to**” (Excel) and which saves an Excel document on your computer. It is recommended saving a large report and reopening it on your computer in Excel because there will be more flexibility in formatting, it’s easier to view by splitting the screen and freezing the column headings, and the report can be reformatted so the column headings repeat on all pages when printed.

Please share this with your business office staff and members of the board. We hope that you will find it helpful identifying ways to make your district the most cost effective it can be. We encourage you to take time to design several custom reports comparing your data to other districts. As time permits, we will be adding additional information to the website.

Veryl Peter, Director, School Finance 785-296-3872

USD	USD Name	General Bill Levy	Supp. Bill Levy	Capital Outlay Bill Levy	Bond & Int. Bill Levy	Other Levy	Total Levy	Rec. Comm. Mill Levy	FTE Enrollment	% Free Lunches	General Fund Local Sources	General Fund County Sources	General Fund State Sources	General Fund Federal Sources	General Fund Other	
225	Blue Valley	20.0	8.8	9.0	18.6	8.9	82.1	2.5	18,429.6	19,331	3.3	2,291.0	2,292.0	2,293.0	2,294.0	2,295.0
222	Olathe	20.0	17.4	4.0	19.0	8.8	89.2	0	22,418.0	23,501	13.8	2,321.0	2,322.0	2,323.0	2,324.0	2,325.0
112	Shawnee Mission Pub Sch	20.0	7.1	7.3	8.9	1.0	42.7	0	27,878.9	28,954	16.0	5,121.0	5,122.0	5,123.0	5,124.0	5,125.0