

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe McLeland at 1:30 P.M. on March 19, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Tom Sawyer- excused

Committee staff present:
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Jim Edwards, Government Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards
Terry Forsyth, Director Political Action, Kansas National Education Association

Others attending:
See attached list.

A motion was made by Representative O'Neal and seconded by Representative Horst to approve the Education Budget Committee Minutes from March 8 and March 13, 2007. The motion carried for approval of the minutes on a voice vote.

Michele Alishahi gave a short synopsis of **SB 109**.

Hearing on SB 109 - School district employees; compensation, when. **SB 109** as amended, would allow compensation to school district employees covered by KPERs in the first month of the employees' employment. Current law mandates payments to begin in September.

Jim Edwards spoke in favor of approving **SB 109** because old law did not allow for payment to school employees until September. Since school is starting now in many cases in early August or before, employees should not have to wait until September to receive remuneration (Attachment #1).

The next proponent to **SB 109** was Terry Forsyth. He stated teachers are no longer nine month employees, and since teachers routinely begin in early August, they should not have to go two months before receiving any pay. It creates a hardship for those who have obligations such as rent and car payments (Attachment #2).

The Chair closed the hearing on **SB 109** and opened the floor for discussion.

Chairman McLeland asked for a motion on SB109 and Representative O'Neal made the motion to pass SB 109 favorable. Representative Horst seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 1:50 PM.

GUEST SIGN-UP SHEET
HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE
March 19, 2007
1:30 P.M. 514-S

NAME	AFFILIATION
Jim Edwards	KASB
TERRY FORREST	KNEA

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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Testimony on **SB 109**
before the
House Education Budget Committee
by

Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 19, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of **SB 109**.

The Kansas Association of School Boards supports changing the current state law that prohibits school districts from making payments to employees until September. As districts have increasingly started the school and contract year earlier, current law needs to be changed to reflect the trend of starting school earlier.

New school employees may report to work in early August or even before that and under current law they may not receive their first compensation for the school year until September. Depending on the districts payroll cycle, that may result in a number of weeks before the paycheck arrives.

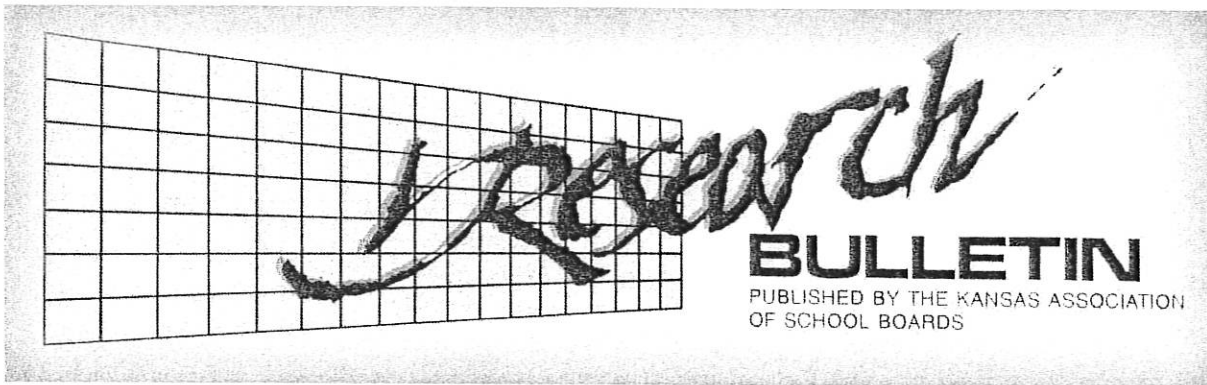
I have attached a copy of the KASB Research Bulletin on the Opening and Closing Dates of School: 2006-07 School Year.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent testimony in support of **SB 109** as well as your consideration of this important measure.

House Education Budget Committee

Date: 03-19-2007

Attachment #: 1



Opening and Closing Dates of School: 2006-07 School Year

August, 2006

Research Bulletin No. 1

Jim Hays, KASB Research Specialist

Opening Dates of School

Closing Dates of School

August 2006

May 2007

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
14 11 USDs 32,044.9 Enr	15 20 USDs 72,085.4 Enr	16 76 USDs 137,942.6 Enr	17 109 USDs 147,346.6 Enr	18 18 USDs 9,780.4 Enr
21 25 USDs 14,618.5 Enr	22 12 USDs 11,493.2 Enr	23 12 USDs 6,015.3 Enr	24 10 USDs 4,541.8 Enr	25
28 1 USD 1,624.1 Enr	29	30 1 USD 138.5 Enr	31	1

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
14	15 2 USDs 354.1 Enr	16 3 USDs 695.5 Enr	17 12 USDs 5,170.6 Enr	18 24 USDs 73,430.1 Enr
21 2 USDs 18,937.8 Enr	22 29 USDs 25,210.0 Enr	23 76 USDs 63,925.2 Enr	24 120 USDs 181,852.3 Enr	25 25 USDs 36,834.0 Enr
28 1 USD 2,411.1 Enr	29	30 1 USD 27,420.6 Enr	31	1

September 2006

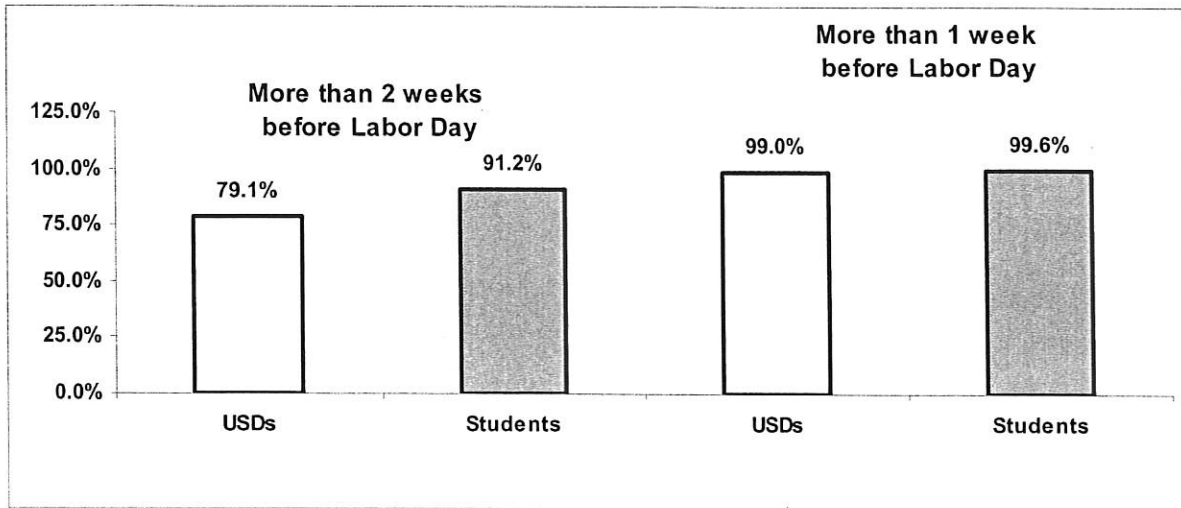
June 2007

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
4 Labor Day	5 1 USD 147.0 Enr	6	7	8

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
4	5	6 1 USD 1,537.0 Enr	7	8

Last year was the first time in modern memory that all Kansas students were enrolled in school prior to Labor Day. This year one small district will once again start after Labor Day. This trend, toward earlier starting dates and earlier fall activities calendars, began several years ago and now virtually all schools play a football game before Labor Day.

Almost 4 out of 5 districts (79.1%) and 9 out of 10 students (91.4%) will have begun school 2 weeks before Labor Day. All but 3 districts (99.0%) and 1,909.6 students (not quite .4%) will start school at least one week before Labor Day weekend.



This bulletin is not being mailed but is available in "pdf" format on the KASB website. For detailed printouts of the districts starting and ending school on each date (also available on the website), or for additional copies of this report, call the KASB Research Department (1-800-432-2471) or email your request with a return address to: research@kasb.org.



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

**Terry Forsyth, Testimony
House Education Budget Committee
March 19, 2007**

Senate Bill 109

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 109.

KNEA believes that Senate Bill 109 brings this pay statute in line with current realities.

It is important that the legislature acknowledge current realities. Teachers are not longer nine month employees. The oft-quoted refrain, "The three best things about a teaching career are June, July and August," is now so false that it doesn't even have a chance at being humorous instead of simply offensive as it is to many who teach.

While Kansas schools tend to close in late May, they open in early August. June and July provide teachers time to pursue advanced degrees and secure professional development hours for license renewal. Many school districts bring teachers in before the students start and keep them after the students have left. And many teachers can be found in their classrooms preparing long before the students show up in mid-August.

The current statutory limit on when to begin paying teachers was written at a time when schools began after Labor Day. Back then, the September pay date was not an issue. Today, teachers routinely begin in early August. In districts where teachers are paid monthly, at the end of the month, this means new employees would go nearly two months before seeing any pay. How do you make rent and car payments under those conditions?

We urge this committee and the full Senate to pass Senate Bill 109. It is long past time for this change.

House Education Budget Committee
Date: 03-19-2007
Attachment #: 2