



KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND
STATEWIDE RESOURCES ON DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS

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Kansas State School for the Deaf
House K-12 Education Budget Testimony
February 1, 2023

On behalf of the Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD) and our 800+ children across the state, we express our sincere gratitude for your continuous support to ensure the statutory requirement of K.S.A. 75-5397e is fulfilled along with the obligation of legislative funding for the Language Assessment Program (LAP) through ARPA-SFRF for FY 2023 and sustainable funding of \$386,000 added to the base budget for FY 2024 and on. Through language assessment program fee fund, the LAP-DHH Specialists will continue to assess students ages 3-8.

KSSD concurs with the Governor's recommendations for the FY 2023 and 2024 budget requests. In addition, we request these enhancements be considered.

School Counselor - \$83,808

Unfortunately, in recent years, there is an increasing number of youths experiencing mental health issues and this justifies our request to have a licensed school counselor for our students. Currently, KSSD does not have a licensed school counselor; however, we have a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) but that license does not cover some of the duties required by a licensed school counselor with regards to campus programming such as offering instruction that enhances awareness of mental health, social/emotional development, short-term counseling interventions and refer to community resources for long-term support.

Parent-to-Parent Support – \$30,000

This position is currently partially funded by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a part-time position. This funding will continue for FY 2024 as long as Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) monies are available to KSSD. KSSD serves students and families throughout the state of Kansas which mandates a full-time position that support parents by providing emotional support to families and assisting them with information and resources related to deaf education. Parent to Parent programs are committed to listening and learning from families and developing an array of services and supports in response to family identified needs.

We thank the legislature for their diligence in developing budgets to address the needs of Kansas schools and citizens. We are using our budget to serve students who are DHH

throughout the state of Kansas in an effective and efficient manner to ensure every DHH child receives equal and appropriate educational opportunities.

Luanne Barron

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KSD Superintendent