



United School Administrators of Kansas

515 S. Kansas Avenue Suite 201

Topeka, Kansas 66603

Phone: 785.232.6566

Fax: 785.232.9776

Web: [www.usa-ks.org](http://www.usa-ks.org)

## **Senate Education Committee Testimony on SB 257**

January 19, 2012

Presented by:

Bert Moore, Director, Chautauqua and Elk County Special Education Services  
and President-Elect, United School Administrators of Kansas

My name is Bert Moore and I am the Director of Director, Chautauqua and Elk County Special Education Services and President-Elect for United School Administrators of Kansas. Previously, I was the Superintendent of West Elk Schools USD 282. The school district covers 541 square miles in Chautauqua, Elk and Greenwood counties.

I am here today in support of SB 257, a bill related to the calculation of the Local Option Budget (LOB). Specifically, the proposed bill would amend KSA 74-6433d and allow districts to choose either the 2008-09 special education amount or the current year's amount, whichever is higher.

Over the past two years, funding reductions to the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) and other programs have significantly impacted districts. SB 257 would provide additional flexibility for districts and would prevent additional funding reductions.

Currently, districts calculate the Local Option Budget (LOB) by multiplying \$4,433 by weighted enrollment (minus special education), then adding 2008-09 Special Education amount. Under the current law, when special education appropriations exceed the 2008-09 amount, the computation changes the current year's allocation for school districts, creating increases or decreases for some districts.

In closing, on behalf of education administrators, I would like to thank you for your continued support of education and for realizing the importance of investing in education. Preparing our children requires a shared commitment, collaboration, and open dialogue among all stakeholders. Thank you for being partners in education.

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*The mission of USA|Kansas, through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.*