

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on February 1, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education

Senator Schodorf opened the discussion of a previously heard bill, **SB 9**, concerning community colleges' contracts with institutions located in another state. She noted that the bill would repeal K.S.A. 71-202, which limits community college agreements.

Senator Teichman moved to recommend **SB 9** as favorable for passage, seconded by Senator Steineger. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf called upon Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education, for an overview of the average additional cost for special education children. Mr. Dennis distributed a handout entitled "Estimated Special Education Excess Costs – FY 2006" and informed the Committee that the data was prepared by the Legislative Research Budget Division, the Department of Education, and the Division of Budget. (Attachment 1) With regard to data shown on the estimated total FY 2005 expenditures, he noted that percentage of growth is considerably less than it was a few years ago. He noted that the data on the projected expenditures for FY 2006 was based on current law. As he discussed the process used to estimate costs for teachers, he noted that currently there are more vacancies for special education teachers than in other field, and it is unknown how many teachers will qualify and will be available. He went on to explain the computation process for determining the total estimated excess cost funding for FY 2006.

Following committee questions and comments relating to Mr. Dennis' presentation, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2005.