

Cottonwood Elementary School

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709 North Hedge Lane Road
Paola, Kansas 66071



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To Whom It May Concern:

The Kansas Teacher of the Year program is a vital and integral part of establishing great educators in the state of Kansas. Not only is this program amazing for current educators that are named and receive this honor, but it is also imperative for pre-service educators. As a 2014 Regional Kansas Teacher of the Year finalist, I am saddened to hear that cutting this program is even a remote possibility.

As a KTOY finalist I was able to collaborate with an amazing group of educators, network with numerous other educators across the state of Kansas, mentor hundreds of pre-service teachers and collaborate with college and university education departments and professors. Despite past and recent cuts to our education budget Kansas has countless educators that continue to go above and beyond for children. With the Kansas Teacher of the Year, these dedicated educators are able to utilize a network of exemplary teachers who are leaders in the improvement of schools, student performance, and the teaching profession. These teacher leaders are what Kansas education is made of.

While we make every effort to manipulate the funds that we are provided to best fit our schools and students, taking away collaboration would be detrimental to our profession. Education is not a one man show and making it that would cost our children of Kansas.

The Kansas Teacher of the Year program allows for educators to be an advocate for their students, to use their voice to help policies that impact children be made, to develop more professionally, and most importantly to me right now....to work with state policy makers to foster accurate perceptions of my classroom, students, and profession. This program needs to stay intact, as is, in order for our teachers to meet best practice for the children of Kansas.

I appreciate your time and would love to answer any questions you may have about the impact this program has on our state.

Sincerely,

Jenny Nash

2014 Regional Kansas Teacher of the Year

Kindergarten Teacher, Cottonwood Elementary (Paola USD 368)

"Children First"