

Written Testimony before the
**Joint Meeting of the House Committee on Appropriations
And
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

on

School Equity Funding

by

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Chairman Ryckman, Chairman Masterson, and Members of the Committees:

During difficult times Leadership emerges and I don't think anyone will argue the fact that Education in Kansas is facing difficult times. Setting aside all politics, it is imperative all parties work together and lead not only for a solution, but for the benefit of all students and families across Kansas.

Recently, there have been many discussions by Leadership around the State of Kansas in addition to Topeka Leadership in an attempt to solve the Equity Challenge. There has been some agreement that there exists a number of ways to achieve equity; however, at this point, the quickest and more certain path to ensure a constitutionally equitable system is to restore both the previous capital outlay formula (based on the median valuation per pupil) and the previous LOB formula (based on 81.2 percentile of valuation per pupil). We understand this would cost the state approximately \$38 million.

It is true that at this late date, it is nearly impossible to pass a plan that will be 100% fair to 100% of the districts in Kansas, however there needs to be the development of a plan that will be acceptable to the Court so that the Educational Institutions of Kansas can continue to operate without disruption for the better good of the kids of Kansas.

From my perspective, any funds that need to be recovered should be shared equally by all districts in the State of Kansas through the implementation of a pro-ration factor that will generate the necessary funds. Because of our unique situation, I would pray that the solution does not displace the Extraordinary Needs Fund considering that we are expecting further reductions in assessed valuations in Western Kansas and this fund could continue to be important for many districts.

I, as with we, appreciate your time and efforts in developing an acceptable solution in this matter.

Respectfully,
Daniel J. Slack, Superintendent