

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Molly Baumgardner, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 445B-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Baumgardner:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 436 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 436 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law in the school finance formula, an at-risk student is defined as one who is eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch Act. SB 436 would change the definition to: (1) a student in the preceding school year who had a 1.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or below on a 4.0 scale; or (2) a student attending kindergarten or grades one through eight and who was not meeting the appropriate grade-level academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Under current law, the number of at-risk students is multiplied by a factor (weighting) of 0.484, with the resulting product being multiplied by the current Base State Aid for Student Excellence (BASE) for determining a district's state aid for at-risk students. For the 2019-2020 school year, 87,231.70 FTE students are counted in the at-risk weighting in the school finance. Statewide, the total at-risk FTE weighting results in \$187.3 million of FY 2020 state aid to school districts in the formula (87,231.70 FTE students X 0.484 at-risk weighting X \$4,436 BASE = \$187,288,554). The Department of Education indicates that the enactment of SB 436 would likely increase state aid to school districts, as the number of FTE students that would qualify with the conditions outlined in the bill is greater than the number of FTE students who qualify for free meals under the National School Lunch Act. However, the Department does not provide an estimate of the increase. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 436 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education