

2019 Legislative Positions

PRIORITY LEVEL POSITIONS

A School Finance System That Allows for Excellence

The following policy components should be a part of a school finance system that allows all Kansas students to reach excellence:

- be based on an empirically-driven outcome, or adequacy, target with an associated cost-of-living multiplier in out years, with adequacy defined to mean that level of expenditure needed to allow all school districts to pursue exemplary, and not merely proficient, student educational and well-being outcomes;
- allow for greater local control authority in financing school district operations;
- be appropriately equalized and require some level of minimum effort on the part of the receiving school district to access equalized funding sources;
- employ an employment wage cost differential that recognizes differing employment wage costs in different areas of Kansas;
- allow for a local funding mechanism to address the additional costs that stem from opening a new school facility;
- fund excess cost of special education to at least 92 percent;
- include the costs of early childhood education into the formula;
- broaden the definition of at-risk to include not only poverty factors, but other indicators such as ELL (English language learners), student academic performance data, attendance data and homelessness;
- allow for the development of a funding mechanism to incent school districts to continue to innovate teaching and learning practices.

Further, all funding that is meant to meet the Supreme Court's adequacy requirement should be put on the BASE amount for education.



Local Control of Education Systems

The Blue Valley School District supports changes in state statutes that will allow greater decision making ability on the part of local Boards of Education to efficiently and effectively operate their education systems. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- opposing limits placed on a local school board in determining local bonding capacity and authority;
- and opposing legislative efforts to force school district employees into a state healthcare plan.

Academic Rigor and Local Curriculum Decisions

The Blue Valley School District supports rigorous state standards, even those above the Rose Standards, of student achievement. In addition, a local school board should retain the responsibility to select the curriculum to meet the state standards of student achievement.

Ability for Judicial Review of State School Finance Provision

The Blue Valley School District opposes any constitutional amendment that limits or eliminates a local school board's right to bring about a judicial review of state school finance provision.

Behavior and Mental Health

The Blue Valley School District urges expanded support for community-based behavioral and mental health initiatives.

**For Blue Valley's complete list of
legislative positions, please visit
www.bluevalleyk12.org/legislative.**

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