

KSDE Budget and Policy Workshop

June 2025

Introduction

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Agenda

- Legislative Update
- Reminders
- Budget Changes and Review
- Wrap Up



Legislative Update



Overall, it was a year ups and downs.

- \$208 million in State General Fund added to preK-12 public education:
 - 4.4% increase in the BASE \$5,378 to \$5,615, LOB Base \$5,692
- \$10 million in SGF added to Special Education State Aid.
- Funding and Policy bills were kept separate!
- No changes to school funding statutes.
- Changes to policy were a mixed bag.



Bills impacting Students and School Districts

SB 44 – Antisemitism (Page 8)



- Declares antisemitism to be against public policy of the state of Kansas, but not limited to, the purposes of public educational institutions and law enforcement agencies.
- Defined in the same manner as the International Holocaust remembrance alliance's working definition of antisemitism.
 - Adopts a non-legally binding definition of "antisemitism" and "antisemitic" to include:
 - Encouraging, supporting, praising, participating in, or threatening violence against Jewish people or property;
 - Wearing masks to conceal a person's identity with the intent to harass or discriminate against Jewish students, faculty, or employees on school property; and
 - Incorporating or allowing funding of antisemitic curriculum or activities in any domestic or student abroad programs or classes.

SB 45 – Graduation Rate Calculation (Page 9)



- Establishes a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for purposes of accreditation.
- State Board of Education must calculate a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for each **school district** and **each of the schools** in the district, **including virtual schools**, and exclude students who:
 - Had not earned sufficient credits to be expected to graduate in the same school year as the student's cohort at the time the student transferred to and enrolled in the school or school district; or
 - Was enrolled in the school or school district but subsequently transferred to a non-accredited private school in Kansas or another state.

SB 114 –Virtual and Non-public Student Activities

(Page 10)



- Permits non-public and virtual school students participating in KSHSAA activities to also participate in ancillary school activities related to the KSHSAA activity they participate in.
- A student that withdraws from a school district and enrolls in a non-public or virtual school is ineligible to participate in KSHSAA activities unless they were eligible to participate when they withdrew.
- Amends eligibility requirements to allow students enrolled in the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) to participate in KSHSAA activities in the school district in which KAMS is located

HB 2102 – Advanced Enrollment for Military Students

(Page 13)



- Requires school districts to allow military students to enroll prior to moving into the district if the student provides evidence that the student's parent or guardian will be stationed at a military installation in the state in the current or immediately succeeding school year.
 - No proof of address would be required to be presented at the time of enrollment. Residence would be required for attendance in the district if the district does not have open seats
 - Applies to grades kindergarten through grade 12, and preschool, if the district has an existing preschool program.
- Also requires a district to take measures to ensure a military student begins receiving required education and services upon attendance if the student has an IEP or 504 plan.

Senate Sub for HB 2382 – Fetal Development and State Board Member Compensation (Page 16)



STATE BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION:

- Requires the State Board of Education to determine the compensation to be received by board members for their service at regularly scheduled meetings of the State Board of Education, and any other in-state meeting for participation in matters related to the educational interests of the state of Kansas.
- State Board members will continue receive reimbursement for travel expense the same as the legislature (KSA 75-3212)
- As of July 1, 2025, there is not a rate of pay for members of the Kansas State Board of Education.
- No additional funding was appropriated for State Board member compensation.

Senate Sub for HB 2382 – Fetal Development and State Board Member Compensation



FETAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION:

- Requires any school district that offers any course or other instruction that addresses human growth, human development, or human sexuality to include, as part of the course or instruction:
 - A presentation of a high quality, computer-generated animation or a high-definition ultrasound of at least three minutes in duration that shows the development of the brain, heart, and other vital organs in early human fetal development.

Senate Sub for HB 2382 – Fetal Development

Things to Consider



- **Course Standards:** Do the standards being covered meet the statute's criteria?
 - Health, Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Sciences, etc.
- **Staff:** Is the person providing the instruction licensed to teach the course content?
- **Age of the Students:** Is a video as described developmentally appropriate for the students involved?
 - There was some discussion that courses are only relevant at the secondary level.
- **Parent Permission:** How does the district handle topics of this nature?
 - Does the district require parents to opt-in? Are parents informed that they can opt-out their student?



Bills impacting Municipalities

SB 2 – Bond Issue (Page 6)



- Validates the election results for the bond issuance question submitted by the board of education of USD 200, Greeley County, at a special election held on May 21, 2024.
 - Bond elections must be published on election office website if the election office has a website.

HB 2022 – Special Elections (Page 12)



- Amends the definition of “special election” in law to require any special election to be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in March of any year, or on the same day as a general or primary election. The bill also makes conforming amendments to reflect such changes in other election laws.
- Bond elections not held on the date of a primary or general election are considered a special election.

Bond Approvals



- Bond Election Dates
 - The first Tuesday after the first Monday of March, August or November.
- State Board bond application approvals should occur at least two months before the election date.
 - Applications must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to State Board Approval.
- The State Board will consider bond applications on a monthly basis.

Bond Cap



- The bond cap will be determined annually.
- If the bond cap is met in a given month, the State Board of Education must prioritize applications with the following criteria in order of highest to lowest priority.
 - A. Safety of the current facility and disability access to such facility
 - Demonstrated by a state fire marshal report, ADA inspection, or similar evaluation;
 - B. Enrollment growth and imminent overcrowding
 - Demonstrated by successive increases in the immediately preceding three school years;
 - C. Impact on the delivery of educational services
 - Demonstrated by restrictive inflexible design or limitations on installation of technology; and
 - D. Energy usage and other operational inefficiencies
 - Demonstrated by a district-wide energy usage or architectural analysis or other similar evaluation.
- If two or more districts meet the same criteria used to prioritize, the earliest date the application was received will be used determine approvals.

HB 2134 – KORA and KOMA (Page 38)



- Limits fees that can be charged by a public agency in response to the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) requests and allow a requester to appeal a fee's reasonableness to the Secretary of Administration if the public agency is in the Executive Branch.
 - Fees for Public Records cannot exceed the actual cost of furnishing the records.
 - Fees can include staff time (not including benefits) including reviews and redacting the records.
 - Requires the lowest cost staff member to produce the record.
 - Must contact the requester if the request will take more than 5 hours or cost more than \$200.
 - Must provide an itemized statement of costs incurred if requested.
 - If a public body chooses to livestream a meeting, it must include all aspects of the meeting.
 - KOMA applies to a quorum of a subcommittee created by a public body.
- Exempts disclosure of certain closed investigations, amends the date for county or district attorneys to report KORA and Kansas Open Meeting Act (KOMA) complaints.

HB 2160 – Whistleblower Protections (Page 14)



- Enacts the Municipal Employee Whistleblower Act to provide statutory protections for municipal employees who report or disclose unlawful or dangerous conduct.
- Does not prevent employers from disciplining employees for violation of rules and regulations in the workplace.
- A copy of the Whistleblower Protection Act must be posted in locations it can reasonably be anticipated to come to the attention of employees.



Bills impacting the Kansas State Department of Education

HB 2045 – Office of Early Childhood (Page 28)



- Establishes the Kansas Office of Early Childhood to oversee child care, home visiting, the Children’s Cabinet, and statewide early childhood policy.
 - An interagency transition team will be appointed to begin operations after July 1, 2025, with the Office in operation by July 1, 2026.
 - Transfers the Parents as Teachers program to the newly established Office of Early Childhood.
- Makes several changes to child care licensing requirements and regulations for child care centers, child care homes, and school age drop-in programs that will go into effect between July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026.
- Adjusts the makeup of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund board.

HB 2069 – School Psychologist Compact (Page 35)



- Outlines requirements for states to join and maintain eligibility as member states in the **School Psychologist Compact**. The Compact is in effect when seven member states have enacted it into law.
 - As of April 2025, the Compact has been enacted in only six states: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Nebraska, and West Virginia, and is being considered in ten other states.
- Allows school psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide school psychological services in any member state.



Bills impacting Tax and Budget

Senate Sub for House Bill 2125 – 20 Mills, Tax Provisions

(Page 19)



20 Mills:

- Reauthorizes the statewide 20 mill school finance levy for school years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

Municipal Budget Date Changes:

- Amends the deadline for taxing entities to annually certify, on or before October 1, to the county clerk the amount of property tax to be levied. **Budgets are still due to KSDE on September 20th**
- Under former law, taxing entities not exceeding the revenue neutral rate had to certify by August 25, while taxing entities exceeding the revenue neutral rate was October 1.
- If taxing entities do not submit budget information by 5:00 p.m. on October 1, the county clerk will use the previous year's budget information and amount of property tax to be levied.
- Also changes the date county treasurers have to mail property tax statements to each taxpayer from December 15 to December 1.

Senate Sub for HB 2125 – 20 Mills, Tax Provisions



Revenue Neutral Rate Notice Forms:

- Changes for mailed notices of proposed tax increases above the revenue neutral rate beginning in calendar year 2025. The form must:
 - Include a column indicating the mill levy utilized in the calculation of:
 - The tax of the preceding year
 - The tax for the current year based on the revenue neutral rate
 - The amount of tax proposed for the current year
 - Eliminate a column specifying the amount the proposed tax exceeds the revenue neutral rate
 - Include information for the aggregate amount of tax levied by each taxing subdivision for the current and prior year and the difference between those amounts in dollars and percents
 - Refer to amounts of tax to be levied by a taxing subdivision in the current year as “Proposed Tax” rather than “Maximum Tax”

SB 125 – Budget Bill (Page 21)



- KSDE was included in the “mega” budget bill this year for the first time in many years.
- The budget bill began the session as HB 2007, which was later inserted into SB 125 during conference.
- The bill appropriates major categories of state aid in line with consensus estimates for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

SB 125 – Budget Bill



Fiscal Year (FY) 2025:

The bill appropriates a total of \$6.6 billion, including \$4.8 billion SGF for FY 2025.

Legislative Changes:

Deleted \$50,000 in special revenue funds for SparkWheel

SB 125 – Budget Bill



Fiscal Year (FY) 2026:

- BASE: \$5,615
- LOB Base: \$5,692

Additions:

- \$10.0 million for special education state aid (\$7.5 million net increase, \$2.5 million in ARPA funds for FY 2025 do not continue)
- \$184,500 SGF for KSDE to employ two staff members to support the at-risk accountability plan in 2024 SB 387

SB 125 – Budget Bill



Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 continued

Deletes:

- \$5.0 million state general fund (SGF) for Safe and Secure Schools Grants
- \$1.8 million SGF for Professional Development state aid
- \$1.3 million SGF for Mentor Teacher state aid
- \$1.0 million SGF for Computer Science Grants
- \$360,693 SGF for Teachers of Excellence Grants (National Board Certification)
- \$50,000 in special revenue funds for SparkWheel moved to DCF

SB 125 – Budget Bill



FY 2026 continued

From existing resources:

- \$354,500 payment to USD 112 – Adult Virtual Audit
- \$500,000 for E-Rate state match
- \$320,000 for a Youth Career Program

Other Items:

- Add \$10 million SGF in FY2025 to the AG's office for two-year firearm detection software program for public schools. After two years, districts may continue program with district funds.
- Add language encouraging expenditures from existing funds to be used to expand current efforts to train both elementary and middle school teachers in the area of Science of Reading including assisting students to reach grade-level literacy for FY 2026.
- Add language allowing foreign exchange students who reside in the district to be permitted to enroll and not be subject to open-seat lottery for FY 2026.
- Add language requiring a percentage be included with District Level Excess Costs calculations.
- 1.5% lapse of KSDE operating funds.



Legislative Reminders

Legislative Reminders



OPEN ENROLLMENT:

KSDE is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature based on data submitted by each school district on the following:

- The number of non-resident student transfers approved and denied by the district in each grade; and
- Whether denial was due to capacity or in accordance with the district's policy on a student 'in good standing'.
 - Capacity is determined at the building and grade level:
 - For kindergarten through grade 8, the classroom student/teacher ratio
 - For grades 9 through 12, the student/teacher ratio for each school building or program
 - Capacity is the total number of students that can enroll in each grade (resident and non-resident).
- Each school district must also submit their open enrollment policy to KSDE annually.
- Make sure your current policy and open enrollment information is available through a button on the homepage of your district website.

Legislative Reminders



CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS (CERP):

- CERP plans are required to be submitted to KDHE via email by July 31, 2025
- KDHE developed CERP standards posted on their website: [Cardiac Emergency Response Plans | KDHE, KS](#)
- The standards are not regulation but are guidance that may be helpful.
- Any questions can be sent to KDHE.CERP@ks.gov

Audits – Legislative Post Audit



- Evaluating Access Controls of School District Accounting Systems
 - 20-25 school districts of varying size have been selected to participate in an audit of financial accounting access controls
 - For selected districts, auditors will interview financial staff, administrative staff, and IT staff and review policies, system settings, and other documentation
- District policies on virtual and non-public student participation in KSHSAA activities
 - Do school district and Kansas State High School Activities Association policies comply with state laws allowing virtual and non-public school students to participate in KSHSAA regulated activities?
 - What policies do school districts have regarding allowing virtual or non-public students to participate in non-KSHSAA regulated activities?

Audits



KSDE: SCHOOL TERM AUDITS

- KSDE Fiscal Auditing staff have begun FY 2025 School Term Audits.
- This is to allow more time for the audits to better understand school calendars and activities.
- There have been an increasing number of issues with schools meeting all requirements.
- The purpose is to help districts comply with requirements and make needed adjustments for 2026-2027.

Education Funding Taskforce



What's happened so far?

There have been four meetings: February, March, May and June

- Information from the meetings can be found on the Legislative website.
- Studied current formula and formulas in other states
 - Education Commission of the States - Toolbox
- It has been stated that there is not a plan to save money.
- Models presented so far:
 - High Enrollment, Low Enrollment and Bilingual
- There will be a lot of ideas discussed.
- Don't Panic! The Taskforce needs to see how different scenarios impact the formula and districts.

Education Funding Taskforce

Future meetings:

- July 1st & 2nd – At-Risk, Transportation, Bilingual Follow-Up
- August 13th & 14th – Special Education
- September 2nd & 3rd - TBD
- October 7th & 8th – TBD
- November 4th & 5th – TBD
- December 2nd & 3rd – TBD





Budget Information

ESSER/EANS Funds



- KSDE is still in the appeals process. To date, the programs previously approved to use this funding through the spring of 2026 have been denied.
 - **LETRS** – The State Board is committed to finishing the structured literacy training for teachers. Alternative funding has not yet been identified.
 - **Fastbridge** – Renaissance has indicated that the district's price of \$4.16 per student will not change even if KSDE does not receive the funds to pay the state share.
 - **Standards Alignment Toolkit Training** - Without funding, districts will have to pay the cost of attendance (\$35):
 - Science, HGSS (ESSDACK), PE and Counseling will proceed as scheduled this summer.
 - Math, ELA, Structured Literacy and HGSS (Greenbush) will be rescheduled for next school year.
 - **School Improvement Days** – Without funding, districts will have to pay the cost of attendance (\$35 if held at Service Centers) reach out to Dr. Proctor with questions.
 - **Leadership Development** - Without funding, districts will have to pay the program costs if they are to continue.

FY 2026 Federal Funds



- Congress appropriated the funding for the 2025-2026 school year in March of 2025. The total funding was flat from 2024.
- Due to changes in populations from state to state, there is variance in state level funding from year to year.
- Unless there has been a significant change in enrollment, districts can budget for federal funding to be flat for 2025-2026.
- The recent recommendations made by the administration are for the 2026-2027 school year.
- There are also federal funds that do not come through KSDE to be concerned about, E-Rate and Headstart.





What to do next?

Things to do in June



- ☒ Attend a 2025-2026 Budget Workshop
- ☐ Close out the current year
- ☐ Collect information from the county (counties)
- ☐ Organize all budget materials
- ☐ Download the Budget Software

Things to do in July



- ☐ School Board Organizational Meeting
- ☐ Complete the budget software
- ☐ Determine if the district will exceed Revenue Neutral
 - ☐ Does your district require board approval?
- ☐ Notify County of intent to exceed Revenue Neutral (if applicable)
 - ☐ Include hearing date and time
 - ☐ Deadline July 18 – Must be on or before Sunday, July 20th
- ☐ Schedule budget review when ready

Things to do in August



- ☐ Schedule budget review when ready
- ☐ Publish Budget and set hearing date
 - ☐ Does this require board approval?
- ☐ Publish Revenue Neutral and set hearing date
 - ☐ Should be the same as the date given to the county!

Things to do August 20 – October 1



- ☐ Hold Budget and RNR hearing
 - ☐ Resolution to exceed RNR must be approved on the same day as the hearing
- ☐ Approve Budget
 - ☐ Make sure the Needs Assessment is part of the approval
 - ☐ Approve the LOB percentage resolution
- ☐ Submit Budget to KSDE
 - ☐ Due September 20th
- ☐ Submit Budget to the county
 - ☐ Due on or before October 1st
- ☐ Take a day off!

Annual Conference



Kansas State Department of Education Great Ideas in Education Conference

- Registration is open now!
 - July 28-30 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita
 - Link on the KSDE homepage
 - <https://events.ksde.gov/default.aspx?tabid=771>
- Presenters will discuss a variety of topics focused on building coherence in Kansas school improvement efforts to effect meaningful change.
- Tuesday, July 29th will include the **Kansas Literacy Leadership Summit tailored to LETRS facilitators (may attend only one day).**
 - A \$250 per LETRS facilitator stipend is available offset the conference fee.

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