

House Education Committee**Testimony on SB 257**

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March 7, 2012

I am here today in support of SB 257, a bill related to the calculation of the Local Option Budget (LOB). Specifically, the proposed bill would amend KSA 74-6433d and allow districts to choose either the 2008-09 special education amount or the current year's amount, whichever is higher.

Over the past two years, funding reductions to the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) and other programs have significantly impacted districts. Recognizing the impact that these reductions had on the Local Option Budget (LOB), the Legislature made changes to provide additional flexibility for districts and prevent additional funding reductions.

Currently, districts calculate the Local Option Budget (LOB) by multiplying \$4,433 by weighted enrollment (minus special education), then adding 2008-09 Special Education amount. Under the current law, when special education appropriations exceed the 2008-09 amount, the computation changes the current year's allocation for school districts, creating increases or decreases for some districts. For those school districts with decreases, their LOB authority would also decrease.

This outcome seems inconsistent with the Legislature's policy goal of allowing districts to maintain LOB funding at 2008-09 levels.

In closing, on behalf of education administrators, I would like to thank you for your continued support of education and for realizing the importance of investing in education. Preparing our children requires a shared commitment, collaboration, and open dialogue among all stakeholders.

The mission of USA|Kansas, through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.