



KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND
STATEWIDE RESOURCES ON DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS
www.KSSDB.org

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DATE: January 31, 2012
TO: House Education Budget Committee
FROM: Madeleine Burkindine, Superintendent
Kansas State Schools for the Deaf and Blind
SUBJECT: Kansas State School for Deaf Budget Appeal (FY2012-13)

**Support Services for Students – Instructional Assistants - FY2012 - \$191,732
FY2013 - \$328,549**

For several years, local districts have hired Instructional Assistants, to work on the campus of the Kansas School for the Deaf when a student needed a higher level of intensive support than could be provided with existing staffing. The local district either paid the employee and the employee worked at the school for the deaf, or the employee was hired and paid by the school for the deaf and the local district reimbursed KSSD. This year a district questioned this practice. We have consulted with the Kansas Department of Education who has told us this practice is a technical violation of KSA 76-1006, which expressly forbids charging tuition and fees other than for activities.

KSSD is statutorily mandated to serve deaf, hard of hearing students across the state because the specialized services required for these students are not available at the local district level. For this reason, we respectfully ask that the Legislature fund the law for FY2012 and FY2013 budgets to support the students already enrolled. Without approval of this appeal the students in question will have to be returned to their local districts where there are not adequate services available to fulfill the students' IEPs. Returning these students will be a violation of federal and state special education law. KSSD's student population is 100% special education and often students have multiple disabilities (e.g., autism, deaf/blindness, or other medically fragile conditions) in addition to the initial lack of hearing. All student services are mandated through Individual Education Programs (IEPs) required by federal IDEA legislation. Kansas also has special education law that covers these students and their IEPs.



EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS



Teacher Salary Increase to comply with K.S.A. 76-11a16 - \$58,729

For the last several years KSSD has been asked to comply with this statute with existing funds. It is impossible to accomplish this without terminating existing positions and we have no excess positions available. We have only one teacher for each classroom now; there is no excess capacity from which to draw this money. We respectfully ask that you fund the law governing teachers' salaries.

Teacher Professional Development - Three Days - \$78,105

In FY2010 KSSD cut ten (10) days from the Teachers' contracted days. This was done in response to severe budget cuts. We understood the state's dire circumstance and responded accordingly; however, Professional Development is a critical part of making sure each student learns to his/her maximum level. For the last two years our highly skilled, seasoned instructional staff have had very limited professional development due to the days cut from their contracted agreement. Instruction improvements occur constantly for students who are deaf, hard of hearing or those who have multiple disabilities in addition to deafness. Without Professional Development our teachers will not have the training they need to make sure each student learns to their maximum level. Of the ten days cut all were dedicated to professional development; this request only restores 3 of those days.

Purchase Minivan - \$20,900

Our fleet of 13 vehicles includes one truck for maintenance, one handicap accessible van, and eleven other minivans or sedans used daily to transport students in support of Special Education IEPs. Two vehicles have over 120,000 miles, three have over 100,000 miles, and three are approaching 100,000 miles; the other three range from 40,000-70,000 miles. It is anticipated that a major repair of any of the 5 vehicles over 100,000 miles would exceed their value. One of the vehicles over 100,000 was wrecked a year ago which has greatly reduced its road worthiness which limits its use. Given the high mileage of our fleet we feel it is cost effective to start replacing one vehicle per year until we have the vehicles with mileage over 100,000 miles replaced. Effective January 1, 2012 we have begun a pilot program that requires staff members who are traveling over 150 miles round trip must rent an Enterprise vehicle.