

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

STEVE HUEBERT
REPRESENTATIVE, 90TH DISTRICT
619 N. BIRCH
VALLEY CENTER, KS 67147
(316) 755-1943
OFFICE: 121-W STATEHOUSE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-1754
(800) 432-3924
TTY (785) 296-8430



TOPEKA

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REGULATIONS

February 14, 2013

Testimony - House Education Budget Committee

HB 2003 - School districts; finance; amendments to funding formula

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

House Bill No. 2003 would create a new foundation funding obligation for K-12 school districts. The bill would change the local operating budget, formerly the local option budget, by requiring a district to adopt a local operating budget of at least 10 percent, but not more than 27 percent, of state financial aid for the current year. An amount equal to 10 percent of the base state aid per pupil multiplied by the adjusted enrollment of the district would be required to be transferred to the district's general fund – and thus counted as foundation funding.

The transferred funds would be required to be spent as follows:

- 10 percent state financial aid attributable to at-risk must be spent on at-risk assistance or programs in the district;
- 10 percent of the state financial aid attributable to bilingual education must be spent on bilingual programs; and
- Any remaining funds must be expended for general operating expenses.

Funds transferred pursuant to the above would be deemed state moneys for education and support services for school districts.

The bill states that base state aid per pupil would be \$4,241 in school year 2012-13 and school year 2013-14 and \$4,492 in school year 2014-15 and each school year thereafter.