

Submitted by Mark LaTurner, Supt of Schools, Oswego, KS

I would like to submit information regarding low-enrollment weighting in the state of Kansas. As a small, rural school, USD 504 Oswego, is a beneficiary of this formula. The short answer of how it is beneficial, simply put, is that it requires as much staff to educate ten students, let's say in an Algebra One class, as it does to educate fifteen or twenty. However, the amount of funding that comes from ten students generally will not create the revenue necessary for full implementation of the curricula put forth by our high standards or that of the state and federal entities involved in K-12 public education.

The current system attempts to "equalize" funding for smaller schools. We have to pay salaries, keep the lights on, fund technology and create consumers as earners and spenders in the future economy. With that said, it can't all be done in suburban schools and all Kansas students deserve a great education, regardless of zip code.

Even with the equalization, we pay far less in salaries than that of Johnson or Shawnee Counties. Sure, our cost of living is less but the bang for the buck is critical in education. In fact, we are a national award-winning school and despite our low (bottom five in the state) valuation per pupil, we are making incredible strides with a low socio economic population. A single mill in our district will generate \$11,670. In the suburban Kansas City districts, that number sky-rockets to \$2,900,000. As you can see, the disparity is tremendous but yet we are doing great things in USD 504. This would not be possible without the equalization plan of low-enrollment or at-risk enrollment.

Please do not create change that will adversely affect our students. We need advocates for great schools.

Respectfully submitted,

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Superintendent, USD 504