



SHAWNEE MISSION

SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 17, 2023

Members of the Shawnee Mission School District Legislative Delegation,

Thank you for your services to Kansas as the 2023 legislative session draws to a close. We have monitored and communicated with the delegation during this session on a variety of policy and funding issues. In advance of the wrap up session next week, there are several issues of great concern to our Board and patrons.

The essential parts of the K-12 education budget remain unresolved, split between two different conference committee reports. We have deep concerns in these waning days when K-12 funding, burdened with unpopular policy issues, raises questions about the commitment to public schools. The full funding of K-12 remains in one conference committee report, combined with many unnecessary policy issues. In a separate conference committee report, special education funding died (along with the voucher plan) on the Senate floor on the last day of the regular session.

Most significantly, the budget conference committee report, House Substitute for Senate Bill 113, includes provisions of great concern. The modification of the funding formula and the CPI BASE calculation nullifies the agreement of previous legislatures and is contrary to the Kansas Supreme Court rulings in the Gannon lawsuit. This proposed change will infuse doubt, delay, and uncertainty in the budgets of our public schools every year and bring the attention of the courts.

We encourage our Representatives and Senators to reach out to leadership, along with the members of the education conference committee. Please urge them to bring together quickly and cleanly the K-12 education budget, the special education budget (fully funded at the 92% level,) remove the sunset on high density at-risk, and pass it. Policy issues not supported by parents, teachers, schools, and the public should not burden the budget and foster concerns about the Legislature's commitment to public education. The time is now to conclude the vouchers agenda and allow elected Boards and administrators to do their jobs.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Dr. Little.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Hubbard".

Dr. Michelle Hubbard
Superintendent