

Dear Senator Peck, Representative Bryce and Representative Blex,

As superintendent of schools in Coffeyville and legislative chair for the Kansas School Superintendents Association, I am writing with urgent concern regarding the conference committee discussions that have taken place this week between the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means committees.

I understand the conference committee is considering redirecting \$5 million for school safety from district base state aid. Furthermore, the committee continues to propose funding Special Education at only \$10 million, far short of the \$75.5 million recommendation that would better serve our students with special needs. Additionally, I've learned that the Safe and Secure Schools grant money would be restricted to purchasing only SAFE EYE, a product sold by a former State Representative.

These decisions would have significant consequences for our students and schools:

1. Diverting base state aid funds will directly impact our classrooms and educational programs, precisely when districts are already working with limited resources.
2. The \$65.5 million shortfall in Special Education funding will severely limit our ability to provide adequate services to our most vulnerable students, potentially putting us at risk of non-compliance with federal requirements. Our general education students suffer as well as we must address the special education shortfall by transferring over \$1 million from the general fund.
3. Restricting security grant funds to a single vendor eliminates districts' ability to select security solutions that best fit their unique needs and prevents competitive pricing that would ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds.

As an education leader, I respectfully ask that you:

- Maintain base state aid funding for its intended purpose
- Fund Special Education at the recommended \$75.5 million level
- Allow districts flexibility in how they utilize Safe and Secure Schools grants
- Reach out to a member of the Joint Conference Committee to share your opinion

Our students deserve educational environments that are both safe and adequately resourced. I am available to discuss these matters further and provide any information that would assist in your decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the state of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Dr. Craig A. Correll
Superintendent of Schools
Legislative Chair, Kansas School Superintendents Association