



2026 Legislative Agenda

Supporting Students • Supporting Educators • Protecting Taxpayer Investment

Board of Education - January 12, 2026

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Tonight's Presentation

- Review the KASB 2026 Resolution on State Issues
- Discuss USD 259's specific legislative priorities
- Key messages for Legislature



KASB Resolution on State Issues

What It Is:

- Adopted annually by Kansas school boards
- Reflects shared priorities across rural, suburban, and urban districts
- Serves as a guide for legislative advocacy

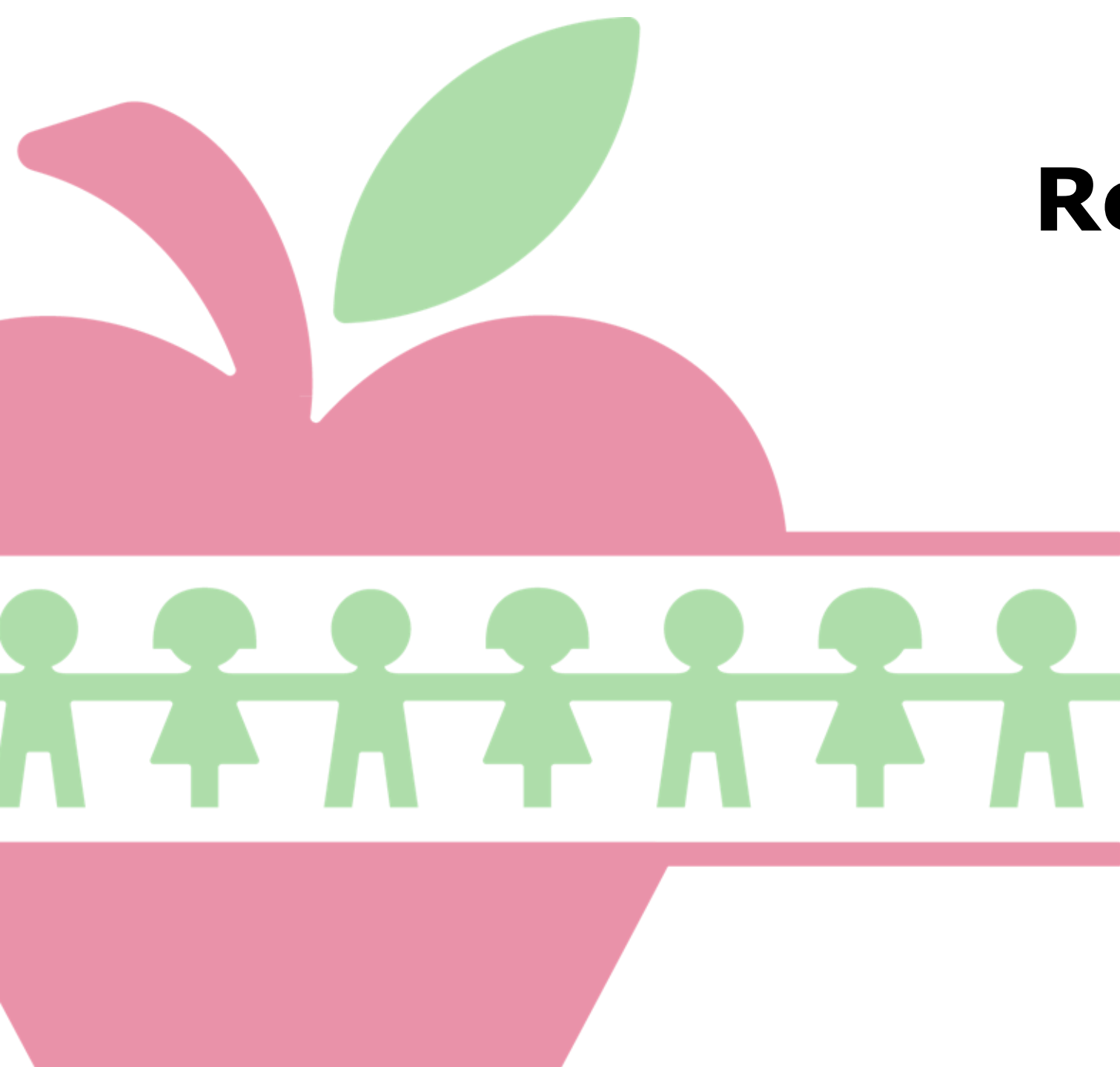
Why It Matters:

- Encourages consistency and predictability in education policy
- Focuses on long-term sustainability



KASB Key Priorities

- Fully fund special education services to meet the needs of all students.
- Support schools in recruiting and retaining teachers and education support staff by strengthening KPERS and eliminating post-retirement work penalties.
- Sustain Kansas's investment in public education by renewing and refreshing the current school finance formula.
- Ensure taxpayer dollars for education are directed exclusively to public schools that are accountable to students, parents, and their communities.
- Protect and respect local control by empowering elected school boards to lead without curricular or funding mandates.



USD 259 Recommended Advocacy

- Special education funding
- Strengthening KPERS
- Sustaining and refreshing the current school finance formula

Focus Area #1

Special Education Funding

The Issue:

- Special education services are federally and state mandated
- Federal and State funding do not fully cover required costs

Why It Matters:

- Costs are shifted to general funds
- Impacts resources available for all students

WPS Goal:

- Closer alignment between mandated services costs and state funding

Focus Area #2

Strengthening KPERs

Why KPERs Matters

- Key tool for recruiting and retaining educators and staff
- Supports long-term workforce stability and reduces turnover costs
- KPERs Working After Retirement (WAR) penalties limits recruiting

WPS Goal

- Sustain and strengthen KPERs as a workforce tool

Focus Area #3

School Finance Formula Stability

Why the Formula Matters

- Provides predictability for budgeting
- Supports equity across districts
- Recognized as constitutional

WPS Goal

- Maintain and fully fund the current school finance formula – small tweaks if any

Key Messages for Policy Makers

- Fund mandates (like SPED) at realistic levels
- Support a competitive education workforce
- Maintain stability in school finance
- Public education is a long-term investment
- Stable policy leads to better outcomes and lower costs over time



Early KS Legislative Action

- SB 302/HB 2421: Bell to Bell Cell Phone Ban
 - Both bills require the phones to be “inaccessible” – differs from our policy
 - Both include exceptions for IEP/504 requirements or medical issues
 - Both include a probation on staff communicating with directly with students via social media platforms
 - HB requires tracking of screen time for grades 1-4



Discussion

