



Kansas PTA
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on behalf of Kansas PTA President, Tammy Bartels
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Testimony to Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Chair, Senator Ty Masterson
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant, 785-296-3775
Dee.Heideman@senate.ks.gov Room 545-S
Hearing, 10:30 am Location: 548-S, Wed, March 5, 2014

Testimony Kansas PTA

Support of SB277 – Extending local budget authority with equalization
Opposed to SB305 – Transfer funds from capital to supplemental aid

Chairman Masterson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our positions regarding two critical bills being heard today in the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Tammy Bartels and I serve as the President of the Kansas PTA.

- **SUPPORT.** We strongly support SB277 to extend funding levels for local budget authority with equalization at \$4,433 per pupil thru 2019.
- **OPPOSE.** We strongly oppose SB305 authorizing the transfer funds from capital improvement to supplemental aid.

The Kansas PTA has advocated consistently on the need for suitable finance of our public schools. We have written several evidenced-based briefs for our parents, teachers and community members across the state (see <http://kansas-pta-legislative.org/>).

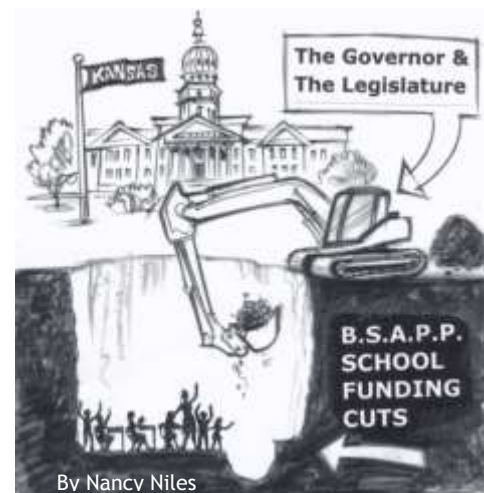
MYTH BUSTERS – Public School Funding, August 2011 - Issue 1

MYTH BUSTERS – Chronic Underfunding of the Base State Aid, September 2011 - Issue 2

MYTH BUSTERS – District Fund Balances - October, 2011 - Issue 3

THE PTA POSITION

The Kansas PTA values strong public schools, as noted in our legislative platforms and 2014 [legislative priorities](#). Our mission and values have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago: to facilitate every child's



potential by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Legislative Priority 1. Kansas PTA will support efforts to strengthen and improve the Kansas public school finance system, which includes legislation and policies that:

- a. uphold Kansas Constitutional obligations to make suitable provision for the finance of the Kansas public schools that is equitable for every child.
- b. restore recent state cuts to base state aid per pupil, back to levels comparable to those deemed suitable by the legislature - actual costs identified in research studies requested and authorized by the Kansas legislature (e.g., Legislative Post Audit 2006 Cost Study).
- c. pursue solutions to fully fund state and federal educational mandates, including the new uniform financial accounting and reporting act, without disproportionately shifting the burden to local communities.

Legislative Priority 2. Kansas PTA will support efforts to restore an equitable and balanced tax policy to maintain a reliable revenue stream for public education. A policy which draws upon a combination of income, property and sales taxes has been proven by history to be a secure and sustainable approach. Kansas PTA opposes provisions limiting the growth of government before public education is fully funded to the statutory levels..

National PTA believes home schools and other nonpublic schools should meet the same educational standards as public schools.

On behalf of the Kansas PTA, we emphatically support extending local budget authority with equalization and oppose depleting capital improvement funds to infuse needed operational budget dollars. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Tammy Bartels
Kansas PTA President

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities.