



Kansas PTA
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January 29, 2025

Written Testimony to House K-12 Budget Committee

Honorable Chair, Representative Jason Goetz

Rose Souter, Committee Assistant, K.12.budget@house.ks.gov, 785-296-7501
Room 286-W, State Capitol Building

Supportive of K12 Budget as recommended by KSDE, SBOE and the Governor.

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 3:30 pm, Room 546-S

Honorable Chair Goetz and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written testimony in support of the K-12 education budget, as recommended by the Kansas Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the Governor’s Office. Passage of this budget bill would uphold the Gannon general education school finance agreement and make another incremental investment toward fully funding special education. The bill is in alignment with [Kansas PTA Legislative Priorities](#) including: investing in public education (priority 2), fully funding special education and other education mandates (priority 3), and investing in early childhood (priority 5). The Kansas PTA supports the requests for:

- \$72.6 million to allocate the next incremental reimbursement to local districts for providing mandated special education services to students enrolled in public and private schools;
- \$11 million to increase childcare access through grant programs and \$13.4 million to expand childcare slots, increasing the likelihood of kindergarten readiness among other benefits to the participating families and the Kansas economy;
- \$5.5 million to cover costs of school meals for students eligible for the reduced priced lunch program, in recognition that a hungry child struggles to learn; and
- \$500,000 to offset the costs of Advanced Placements tests for at-risk students, removing barriers to post-secondary education.

The educators and staff of our Kansas public schools continue to rise to the challenge and beat the odds ([KASB, July 2023](#); [August 2023](#)).

- The number of college credits earned by high school students reached an all-time high in 2024.

- The number of students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses and receiving a passing score reached a new high in 2024 ([KSDE, 2024](#)).
- The statewide high school graduation rate increased between the school years ending 2023 to 2024, including Kansas youth eligible for free/reduced lunch, students with disabilities, students in foster care, for those unhoused, in the military, and among black and Hispanic students.
- Kansas students continue to perform at or above the national average on multiple standardized metrics ([NAEP, 2022](#); [NCES 2024](#)).

Our educators, students and families patiently await full funding of special education, serving students enrolled in public and private schools. Yet, concern is growing as the state and federal special education funding shortfall erodes the recent restoration of general education. Our K-12 public educators rose to the decades-long challenge of deep cuts to general education funding, which just reached a purchasing-power this past school year to match the pre-2009 recession cuts (aka the Montoy agreement). Our educators rose to the challenges of a global pandemic. Let's recognize the new 2023 the baseline ([KASB, 2024](#)), monitor progress, and invest in our public schools to ensure all Kansas kids have equal opportunity to achieve.

We urge this committee to adopt the recommendations of the Kansas Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the Governor's Office. Thank you for your consideration.

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THE PTA POSITION

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. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.