

Senators Derek Schmidt, Jean Schodorf, Dwayne Umbarger, Pete Brungardt, Vicki Schmidt, and Pat Apple held a news conference today and released a school finance proposal. Listed below is a summary of their proposal and well as additional policies included in their proposal.

	(in millions)
Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) – Increase by \$65 from \$4,222 to \$4,287	\$ 35.6
At-Risk Weighting – Increase from 0.145 to 0.20	32.0
Special Education – Increase from 81.7 percent in FY 2005 to 90 percent in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 and to 91 percent in FY 2008 and thereafter	15.8
Capital Outlay Program – Equalize capital outlay program up to the 8 mill limit, based on the formula for Capital Improvements State Aid Program	18.0
KPERS-School – Fund the increase due to the higher BSAPP	2.5
Local Option budget – Fund the increase due to the higher BSAPP	6.6
Property Tax Relief – For school year 2005-06, increase supplemental general state aid to the 84 th percentile in order to reduce levies for local option budgets; in future years, set the equalization percentile by appropriation, with the floor at the 75 th percentile	40.0
TOTAL	\$ 150.5

NOTE: Amounts of increase are in addition to appropriations made by the 2005 Legislature.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

- Increased funding attributable to the \$65 increase in BSAPP must be spent for instructional purposes and to implement site-based budgeting; the increase for instruction must not supplant the prior year's funding for instruction on a per-pupil basis.
- School districts would be required to develop plans to implement site-based budgeting with full implementation scheduled for school year 2006-07; implementation costs are to be funded from the increase in BSAPP.

- No money from a school district's general fund could be spent for attorney fees or other costs in support of litigation against the State of Kansas or any state officer, official, agent, or agency.
- Current law would be amended to provide for filling the office of "Legislative Counsel," who shall be an attorney in private practice employed by the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) pursuant to a contract between the LCC and the attorney. The Legislative Counsel shall represent the Legislature in matters relating to Article 6 of the *Kansas Constitution* and such other matters as directed by the LCC.
- The scope of the Legislative Division of Post Audit cost study would be expanded to conform to the Court's directive that the study take into account student outcomes.
- It shall be the public policy of the State of Kansas that at least 65 percent of money provided by the state to school districts shall be spent in the classroom or for instructional purposes.
- There is created the "At-Risk Council," a six-member body which will do the following:
 - (1) Identify those conditions or circumstances that contribute to making a student at-risk of not succeeding in school;
 - (2) Develop and recommend public school programs and services which meet the needs of at-risk students and help close the achievement gap;
 - (3) Develop and recommend tools to assess and evaluate the effectiveness of approved at-risk programs; and
 - (4) Recommend funding alternatives for approved at-risk programs.

The Council shall make a report on its activities to the Governor and to the 2010 Commission by the start of the 2006 legislative session. The Council shall make a final report, including its recommendations, to the Governor and the 2010 Commission by the start of the 2007 session. The Council shall terminate June 30, 2007.