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Governor's Column: School ruling a win for kids

The following column is by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

Kansans value our schools because we know the opportunities a good education can unlock for us and for our children.

Last week, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that our state is finally upholding its duty to provide good schools in every Kansas community.

This ruling is a win for kids because it shows we're meeting our responsibility to them. It's the outcome I was hoping for when I first brought legislators together back in January to start working on a school plan.

We accomplished our goal, and the issue of school funding is finally out of court and back where it belongs, with the Legislature and local school boards.

We all know the historic commitment made to Kansas students was long overdue. It's unfortunate it took years of prodding to get the Legislature to act.

But the accomplishments of the past few years are also proof that when we work together as Kansans we can accomplish great things. I commend the majority of legislators for coming together with me to find a solution that will benefit every student in Kansas.

I also want to remind everyone that the quest to ensure first-class schools in every Kansas community isn't over. We must make sure the Legislature not only carries out, but also builds upon the school plan passed this year, and that includes enhancing local control.

Going forward, I will make sure the Legislature keeps its commitment to Kansas kids. I pledge to veto any attempt to roll back the progress we've made because now is not the time to step back from our responsibilities. I also pledge to continue our efforts to improve the efficiency and accountability of our schools, so we know every tax dollar is spent wisely.

We've made great progress in the past couple of years, ensuring good schools in every Kansas community and laying the groundwork for a well-educated workforce, and I intend to continue that progress.

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