

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – excused  
Senator Bob Marshall - excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department\  
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education  
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Colleen Riley, Director, Special Education Services, Kansas Department of Education  
Susanne Smith, Division Director, Learning Services, Wichita, USD 259  
Janet Jump, Principal, Dodge Elementary, Wichita, USD 259  
Kathy Busch, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, Wichita, USD 259

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Presentation: Kansas' Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS)**

Colleen Riley, Director, Special Education Services, Kansas Department of Education, began the presentation on the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) ([Attachment 1](#)) with a definition of MTSS. MTSS is a framework for school districts to align resources to support the learning success of each child, regardless of the level of support needed. The MTSS framework can be used to design school-wide support for children in the areas of reading, math and behavior. The Kansas MTSS framework has its foundation in leadership, professional development, and empowering culture.

The goal is to empower leadership at the state level, district level, and the school level to provide appropriate professional development for staff so they will have an empowering culture to provide appropriate instruction for all students. Rather than the old model of “Wait to Fail”, this new model is aimed at being preventive. This includes three points: intervention is not tied solely to special education; students receive intervention prior to experiencing difficulties; and it enables help to be given immediately-early.

Susanne Smith, Division Director of Learning Services; Janet Jump, Principal, Dodge Elementary; and Kathy Busch, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, all from the Wichita School District, #259, also presented information ([Attachment 2](#)) regarding the implementation of MTSS in the Wichita School District.

A short question and answer session with committee members followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:25 p.m.