

February 8, 2013

The Honorable Steve Abrams, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Education  
Statehouse, Room 224-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Abrams:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 103 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 103 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 103 would change the current definition of an “at-risk pupil” in the school finance statutes. Under current law, a student attending a school with an approved at-risk pupil assistance plan is counted in the school finance formula as an “at-risk pupil” if he or she is eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch Act. SB 103 would define an “at-risk pupil” as a student who (1) is enrolled in any grades below grade four and who is eligible for free meals under the National School Lunch Act and; or (2) is a student who is enrolled in grades four through 12 who is on academic warning or who does not meet the standard on the mathematics or reading state assessments during the preceding school year. In both cases, in order to count the student as an “at-risk pupil” in the school finance formula, the school must maintain an approved at-risk pupil assistance plan or maintain an approved proficiency assistance plan.

Enactment of SB 103 by itself would not change the amount appropriated for state aid to school districts. However, according to the Kansas Department of Education, the bill would change the current definition of at-risk pupils, and would reduce the number of students eligible to be counted as at-risk pupils. If SB 103 were enacted and no change was made to the amount of state aid appropriated to school districts, the base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) would increase from \$3,838, as recommended in *The FY 2014 Governor’s Budget Report*, to \$3,994, or an increase of \$156. If the budget decision was made to reduce the BSAPP by \$156 (the amount of the BSAPP change generated by changing the at-risk pupil definition), the state would save approximately \$106,080,000 in general state aid payments to school districts, all from the State General Fund ( $\$156 \times 680,000$  (number of weighted FTE students estimated for the 2013-2014 school year) = \$106,080,000).

In addition, the Department estimates that expenditures of approximately \$25,000, all from the State General Fund, would be required to make changes to its computer system that is

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used for the calculation of state aid to school districts, as well as additional audit time by the Department's auditors for school district compliance with the new definition of at-risk students. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 103 is not reflected in *The FY 2014 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", written in a cursive style.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA  
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education