

Testimony before the
House K-12 Budget Committee
on
HB 2395
by

Brad Starnes - Superintendent of Schools Wabaunsee USD 329

March 14, 2019

Members of the Committee

USD 329 stands opposed to House Bill 2395.

I'm writing to voice my opposition against the latest school funding bill 2395, due to the following reasons:

1. Doesn't meet the Kansas State Constitution's language as suitable or equitable as determined 3 times in Kansas State Supreme Court rulings.
2. Doesn't meet the 92% state aid funding for Special Education-which hasn't been met yet.
3. Allows private school tuition with state funding. Nothing in the constitution provides state funding for private school tuition.
4. Cash balances of 15% of our General Fund. That would mean we'd have to spend down over \$1 million in cash balances. Right now we have approximately 2 months of cash balances/savings (\$1.5 million-17.6% of all our total budget including transfers)-almost all fiscally responsible financial advisers tell you to have at least 3-6 months of expenses in savings. We need the cash balances for cash flow-we don't get school meal payments and state aid till September and are ordering/needing to pay for food in August. We don't get SPED state aid till October and need to pay our SPED cooperative assessments. We've moved allowable General Fund maintenance/custodial salaries to Capital Outlay and need the CO money cash to pay them-if we don't have the cash balances we can't meet our payroll obligations.