

Unified School District No. 483

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Plains Kismet

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Senate Education Committee
February 4th, 2020
Senate Bill 271
Proponent Testimony by Elton Argo, Superintendent
USD 483, Kismet-Plains

Chair Baumgardner and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today on behalf of USD 483, Kismet-Plains, a member of Schools for Quality Education. I apologize for not being able to represent our district's case verbally – geography and time constraints create complications. Unified School District 483, Kismet-Plains, typically serves around 700 students per year. For the current school year, the district will receive \$173,891 in high density at-risk aid. The district uses these additional funds to provide proven educational opportunities for these high need students that would otherwise not be afforded by the district. Specifically this funding is used to provide additional technology opportunities; purchase supplemental resources; provide additional personnel for classroom support; provide extended instructional opportunities and reduce student/teacher ratios.

USD 483 has been facing declining enrollment in recent years. While most districts will receive approximately 6.5% in additional revenue due to the new school finance formula, USD 483 will receive only a 1.07% increase in additional funding for 2019-2020. The LPA 2006 cost study affirmed that school districts with high concentrations of poverty require extra resources to address the severe needs of their students. Without the additional funding generated through the high density at-risk formula, our students would certainly struggle to maintain the high educational progress our public expects. Test scores and continued high levels in graduation and postsecondary success would be jeopardized.

Please support Senate Bill 271 and the removal of the sunset provision for high density at-risk funding.

Sincerely,

Elton Argo
Supt. of Schools, USD 483