

714 SW Jackson  
Suite 300  
Topeka, KS 66603



phone: 785-296-4213  
fax: 785-296-1412  
jja@jja.ks.gov  
www.jja.ks.gov

Teresa Williams, Acting Commissioner

Juvenile Justice Authority

Sam Brownback, Governor

October 17, 2012

Senator Carolyn McGinn  
PO Box A  
Sedgwick, KS 67135

Senator McGinn:

During my appearance before the Legislative Budget Committee on October 9, 2012, you and your committee members had some questions that I promised to research regarding the Judge Riddel's Boys Ranch (JRBR). Below, please find the answers to the committee's questions.

**1) Senator Vratil: Is there something about education that is unique to JRBR?**

As indicated by a member of the audience at the hearing on October 9, 2012; commitments have been made to the Judge Riddel's Boys Ranch (JRBR) that are unique compared to other similar facilities (i.e. Youth Residential Centers II's) in Kansas. Within the provisions of the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act (K.S.A. 72-6405 through 72-6440), JRBR does benefit from a specific statutory provision with regard to the definition of a "pupil". Specifically, K.S.A. 72-6407(a) (2) states in part;

... A pupil in the custody of the secretary of social and rehabilitation services or in the custody of the commissioner of juvenile justice and enrolled in unified school district No. 259, Sedgwick county, Kansas, but housed, maintained, and receiving educational services at the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch, shall be counted as two pupils."

Of note, the 2009 Kansas Legislature modified this statute, in Section 1 of Chapter 76 of the 2009 Session Laws of the state of Kansas, to include a second YRCII facility, operated on the former grounds of the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility (AJCF). This facility was closed at the end of December 2009.

Recent amendments to the specific provision to JRBR include:

2007, ch. 185, § 1: added specific language of "*or in the custody of the commissioner of juvenile justice*"

L. 2005, ch. 2, § 10: other changes not specific to JRBR, but the language of double funding to JRBR existed at this time. Determining when the practice began would require additional research.

The School District Finance and Quality Performance Act also address other types of facilities that provide services to the juvenile offender population. K.S.A. 72-6407(a) (3) specifies:

(3) A pupil residing at the Flint Hills job corps center shall not be counted. A pupil confined in and receiving educational services provided for by a district at a juvenile detention facility shall not be counted. A pupil enrolled in a district but housed, maintained, and receiving educational services at a state institution or a psychiatric residential treatment facility shall not be counted.

Recent amendments to this provision include:

L. 2008, ch. 172, § 2: modified to exclude PRTF from the count.

L. 2007, ch. 185, § 1: A provision defining a "detention facility" was stricken that included in (2) level VI treatment facilities licensed by KDHE which were psychiatric residential treatment facilities and in (3) a list of specific facilities (level V's and VI's) to include:

- Forbes Juvenile Attention Facility
- Sappa Valley Youth Ranch of Oberlin
- Salvation Army/Koch Center Youth Services
- Clarence M. Kelley Youth Center
- Clarence M. Kelley Transitional Living Center
- Trego County Secure Care Center
- St. Francis Academy at Atchison
- St. Francis Academy at Ellsworth
- St. Francis Academy at Salina
- St. Francis Center at Salina
- King's Achievement Center
- Liberty Juvenile Services and Treatment.

The School District Finance and Quality Performance Act no longer lists facilities by name, instead K.S.A. 72-8187 provides Flint Hills job corps center, psychiatric residential treatment facilities and juvenile detention facilities an eligibility process for grant funds from the state board of education.

**2) Senator McGinn: What is the per pupil aid for each resident of a Youth Residential Center II?**

In our research, we were unable to identify any Youth Residential Center II other than JRBR that receives additional consideration for purposes of public education. This would set the per pupil aid for YRCII's \$3,780.

In a further effort to answer your question, JJA also contacted the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). KSDE provided information that I am including for your review.

The attached document shows the facilities who do benefit from additional state aid pursuant to K.S.A. 72-8187, which does not include any other YRCII serving the juvenile offender population. The facilities receiving this additional consideration are county operated juvenile detention centers and psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF).

State aid for each Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF), including Flint Hills Job Corps Center, each student at a PRTF qualifies for 2.0 funding.

Column G is the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) student count that determines payment for each PRTF.

Column H represents the Column G FTE multiplied by 2 and multiplied again by the Base State Aid per Pupil (\$3,780).

KSDE staff did advise that students at the JRBR are counted as 2.0 for funding purposes. However, these students are included with the total FTE count for USD 259 just like any other school in the district. The software in their system automatically doubles the FTE for the students at JRBR. The state aid payment for the JRBR is included in the total general fund payment to USD 259, and is distributed to JRBR by USD 259. As a result, KSDE does not have separate payment files for the Judge Riddel's Boys Ranch.

**3) Senator McGinn: Why does USD259 provide educational services to JRBR instead of the Goddard school district?**

Provision of education by USD259 at JRBR is specified by K.S.A. 72-1046, which defines school residence. Specifically, section (c) provides:

(c) Any child who has attained the age of eligibility for school attendance and who lives at the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch as a result of placement at such ranch by a district court or by the secretary of social and rehabilitation services shall be deemed a resident of unified school district No. 259, Sedgwick county, Kansas, and any such child may attend school which shall be maintained for such child by the board of education of such school district as in the case of a child who is a bona fide resident of the district.

This statute was last modified in 1992 (1992, ch. 199, § 3; July 1) establishing this as a twenty plus year public policy practice that does not appear to be provided to any similar facility in Kansas or school district.

**4) Senator McGinn: Also wanted more specifics on the meeting held with SGCO on 9-21-12 and the scheduled meeting in October.**

My staff and I met with Sedgwick County officials on September 21, 2012 about the funding for the JRBR. The county officials in attendance included the Sedgwick County Director of

Public Safety, Chad VonAhnen, Community Corrections Director Mark Masterson, and Assistant County Manager, Ron Holt. During this meeting we discussed the current funding structure of JRBR, the need for system overhaul on funding of JJA funded residential placements, JRBR program outcomes and projected system impact should the JRBR be closed. At the close of this meeting, it was decided to hold a subsequent meeting with all of the participants as well as KDADS Secretary Shawn Sullivan and DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore. This meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2012.

I hope this provides adequate clarification on the questions posed by the committee. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Terri Williams, Acting Commissioner  
Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority

CC: File

USD	District Name	Building No	Program	PRF	Bed Count	June		Line #2 Maximum State Aid
						Payment FTE	Payment	
D0229	Blue Valley	7791	Marillac Juvenile Detention Center	Yes	52	52		\$393,120
D0233	Olathe	9309	Olathe Juvenile Detention Center		0	65		\$491,400
D0233	Olathe	9310	TLC for Children and Families, Inc.		59	53		\$400,680
D0248	Girard	1263	Girard Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	24.1		\$182,196
D0259	Wichita	1645	Riverside Academy		63	46		\$347,760
D0259	Wichita	1949	Wichita Juvenile Detention Center		0	73.4		\$554,904
D0290	Ottawa	2656	Ottawa Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	5		\$37,800
D0305	Salina	3025	St. Francis Academy - Salina	Yes	33	32		\$241,920
D0305	Salina	3028	Salina Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	9		\$68,040
D0308	Hutchinson Public Schools	3138	Hutchinson Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	17		\$128,520
D0373	Newton	4819	Prairie View	Yes	28	14		\$105,840
D0383	Manhattan-Ogden	5142	Flint Hills Job Corps Center		0	107.2		\$810,432
D0453	Leavenworth	7027	Leavenworth Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	2		\$15,120
D0457	Garden City	7149	Garden City Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	18		\$136,080
D0475	Gearly County Schools	7632	Junction City Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	12.3		\$92,988
D0497	Lawrence	8225	Lawrence Juvenile Detention Center	No	0	29.6		\$223,776
D0500	Kansas City	8351	KVC Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center	Yes	54	33.4		\$252,504
D0500	Kansas City	8355	KVC-Star	Yes	43	3		\$22,680
D0500	Kansas City	8357	Kansas City Juvenile Detention Center		0	39.3		\$297,108
D0501	Topoka Public Schools	8542	Topoka Juvenile Detention Center		0	62		\$468,720
D0501	Topoka Public Schools	8543	Florence Crittenton Services	Yes	26	7.5		\$56,700