

February 19, 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 169 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 169 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 169 would create the Kansas Reads to Succeed Act. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and each school thereafter, local boards of education would be required to adopt a policy prohibiting the promotion of a student from grade three to grade four if the student scores at the lowest achievement standards on the most recent reading state assessment or an alternative standardized reading assessment. Exceptions would be provided for mandatory retention requirements which would be included in the policy. School districts would be required to file an annual report with the State Board of Education with the number of students retained and the number who were granted exemptions. The State Board of Education would adopt rules and regulations as to what is an acceptable alternative standardized reading assessment and the type of scores which a student must receive in order to be identified as meeting standards for grade three.

The Kansas Children's Cabinet would be required to establish the Kansas Reads to Succeed Program, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. The Kansas Children's Cabinet, with the assistance of the State Board, would prepare a longitudinal analysis report of student assessment data which would track those students who received services. The analysis would be submitted annually to the House Education Committee, Senate Education Committee, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and the Governor.

Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, the Commissioner of Education would identify the top 100 elementary schools within Kansas which demonstrate improvement in grade four student reading proficiency. Subject to appropriation, the Kansas Children's Cabinet would make a monetary award to those school districts that have at least one elementary school identified by the Commissioner of Education as a top 100 public elementary school. Such award would be in the amount of \$10,000 for each such elementary school.

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In *The FY 2014 Governor's Budget Report*, the Governor includes \$6.0 million to finance the Kansas Reads to Succeed Program, all from the Children's Initiatives Fund. Of this amount, \$5.0 million would be used to support district level literacy prevention and intervention programs for young children, including the preparation of a longitudinal analysis report of pupil assessment data. The Kansas Children's Cabinet would utilize an interagency agreement with the Kansas Department of Education for this data system.

Also included in the Governor's recommendation for this program is \$1.0 million (100 schools X \$10,000 award per school = \$1,000,000) for monetary awards for those districts having schools identified by the Commissioner of Education as having a top 100 public elementary school in the State of Kansas, as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

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