

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education

Senator Vratil moved to introduce a conceptual bill which would change the definition of “at-risk student” to “a student who is not achieving proficiency in reading and math” and which would also provide that, instead of the current weighting system for at-risk students in the formula, a block grant approach would be used wherein the money appropriated by the Legislature would be distributed to school districts based upon grant applications and on the full-time equivalent at-risk students for which they are providing services, seconded by Senator Goodwin. The motion carried.

Senator Steineger requested the introduction of a conceptual bill which would remove from the school funding formula the weightings for bond and interest and new facilities except in cases where school districts consolidate, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf requested that Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education, provide information for the Committee concerning federal funding for the programs under the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Dennis agreed to present an overview at a future meeting.

Staff review of the 2005 Legislative Educational Planning Committee’ (LEPC) conclusions and recommendations for elementary and secondary education and for postsecondary education: (Attachment 1)

Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department, summarized the following LEPC conclusions regarding elementary and secondary education:

- Use of 65 percent of funding for instruction;
- Post Audit Study of educational costs;
- Virtual schools;
- Juvenile detention facilities;
- High school reform;
- Issues discussed with the State Board of Education;
- State assessments;
- Issues relating to teachers;
- Report from Standard & Poor’s;
- School activities outside the classroom;
- Implementation of 2005 school finance legislation;
- Impact of hurricane Katrina;
- Nutrition guidelines;
- Vouchers in other states;
- Kansas Center for Performance Excellence; and
- No Child Left Behind blue ribbon schools.

Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department, summarized the following LEPC conclusions regarding postsecondary education:

- Facility needs at state universities;
- Performance agreements with regents institutions;

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Concurrent enrollment;
- Center for Innovative School Leadership;
- Jones Institute for Educational Excellence;
- Emporia State University elementary partnership programs;
- Report from the Kansas Board of Regents;
- Technical college and area vocational school waiting lists;
- Learning Quest; and
- Teacher education program approval.

Overview of the Kansas Education Comparative Performance and Fiscal System:

Dale Dennis demonstrated the use of the Kansas Department of Education's web site for accessing the comparative performance and fiscal system. He explained various methods which can be used to access custom reports for each school district to obtain and compare data on such things as attendance, general funds, budgets, and total expenditures. He noted that the site is continuously updated by the Department and that the data can be exported to Excel. The web site address is <http://www.ksde.org/>.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2006.