



# FOWLER School District



*Home of the Goldbugs!*

USD 225 Fowler  
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I would like to thank the committee for this opportunity to address HB 2504.

I would like to inform the legislature of the importance of the small schools in Kansas. I am Superintendent of Fowler USD 225 and have over 30 years of experience as an educator; with 25 of those years being 4A schools and six years being in 1A/2A schools in Kansas. I have teaching, coaching, counseling and administrative roles over my career. Research indicates that small class size in grades pk-3 benefits students. I was in a 4A school district that redesigned their classes to reflect this best practice for the benefit of kids. This best practice is a reflection of many small districts that you are looking at to absorb into other districts. The scores at Fowler reflect that learning is occurring at a very high level as our graduates have been above the average on the ACT composite scores. Small schools are notorious for getting the job done and many people from the community volunteer to assist Fowler schools. The efficiency committee would give high marks to Fowler as many patrons, teachers and administrators perform many roles without additional compensation. Fowler continues to be successful in many areas as indicated by the participation of our students at state scholar's bowl and in state athletic events. Fowler has been called by some other administrators an "academic treasure" those words continue to attract highly certified teachers as three were hired this year with a master's degree. Fowler continues to produce students who are college and career ready. Fowler schools have a strong link

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AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

Fowler U.S.D. #225 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, handicap, or age in admission to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding the district's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA (including information about the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons) may be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, who can be reached at (620) 646-5661, 100 East 8th, Fowler, KS 67844, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.



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to its community and the support of the patrons has been shown with not only their volunteerism but also with their willingness to raise the LOB for the education and pass a bond for the safety of all in the community. Restructuring the districts is not the answer to the budget crisis. Drawing new boundary lines will not decrease the number of students the state is educating but will create busing issues and a raise the number of students per class. Space would be limited creating a need for new buildings and an additional expense to the budget. The current budget policies in the state of Kansas continue to create an economic crisis and the governing bodies need to examine what created the downward spiral -- poor budgeting practices.

Respectfully,

*Thomas V. Dolenz*

Thomas V. Dolenz, Fowler USD 225 Superintendent

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