



## Schools for Quality Education

007 Bluemont Hall, 1100 Mid-Campus Drive, Manhattan, KS 66506 • (785) 532-5886 • [www.coe.ksu.edu/sqe](http://www.coe.ksu.edu/sqe)

### Senate Select Committee on Education Finance

#### Senate Bill 44

Submitted by

**Jeff Travis, Superintendent, USD 273 Beloit Schools, a member of  
Schools for Quality Education**

Honorable Chair Senator Baumgardner and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today on the topic of school funding.

I am Jeff Travis, Superintendent of USD 273 Beloit Schools, and I am a Board Member of Schools for Quality Education. I am representing both entities, and I am a proponent of **Senate Bill 44**.

This is a moment in time where the funding of Kansas schools can completely be solved. The new funding will create consistency, opportunity for innovation, end the ongoing debate that drains our resources, and legitimize the excellence to which we must all aspire for the students of Kansas.

Opportunity to innovate for the students of Kansas is a must.

- 1 Consistent Budget can allow for the necessary planning as school districts across Kansas prepare for the future.
- 2 School Redesign can flourish when the budget is stable. The why, the what, and the how can grow.
- 3 Early Childhood programming can be expanded, and catch At-Risk students at a much earlier stage of their lives. This can become the critical and initial step for post-secondary and career ready success.

*"Rural is Quality"*

- 4 STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) skills are a necessity for our Kansas students as they grow to become future ready. 68% of careers in 2025 do not exist as we currently speak.
- 5 Social Emotional needs across the state of Kansas for all students have grown in massive proportions. The time is now; schools must step up and integrate this important work into the daily routine of the delivery of excellent teaching.
- 6 Alternatives are needed to keep students in schools, and insure that they graduate. As we now know, not all students can be successful with one type of instruction, differentiation and personalization must become the norm.

In summary, the students of Kansas deserve our best leadership. It is time to end the debate and move forward with action. The **Senate Bill 44** plan to fund education for Kansas does just that. We will be able to make legitimate plans for academics, facilities, and staff. We will finally be in a financial position to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. As I previously stated, careers are changing across our nation. This will allow design and delivery of education to keep pace with needs in the work place. We cannot be stagnant with education. This plan presented by the Governor will allow for equalization for all Kansas students, regardless of zip code. Please consider **Senate Bill 44** as a positive measure to make the Redesign of Kansas education a reality. We all know that most precious resource in Kansas are the children that attend our schools in EVERY DISTRICT, EVERY BUILDING, EVERY CLASSROOM, EVERY DAY.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you today on behalf of the students of Kansas.