

February 6, 2019

Written Testimony: Senate Bill 44

Senator Baumgardner and Members of the Senate Select Committee on Education Finance,

REGARDING: SB44 - Appropriations for the department of education for FY 2019, 2020 and 2021; increasing BASE aid for certain school years; continuing 20 mill statewide levy for schools and exempting certain portion of property used for residential purposes from such levy.

On behalf of the Valley Center Unified School District No. 262, we urge the members of this committee and the Kansas Legislative body to favorably pass SB44.

Valley Center School District is located north of Wichita, Kansas. The district's enrollment is currently around 3,000 students and growing. We rank in the bottom 8% of school districts in the state for spending per pupil (counting every dollar that flows through the district's budget).

For **\$69.85** per school day per student we provide:

- an education,
- services for students with disabilities,
- materials,
- resources,
- transportation,
- breakfast and lunch,
- retirement contributions for staff,
- safety and security,
- basic health care,
- social-emotional support,
- at-risk support,
- college and career ready programs,
- dual credit opportunities,
- facilities and utilities,
- after school activities and athletics,
- and much more

The additional funds in the base aid state aid per pupil would allow us to continue to offer and enhance these services, as well as, provide the necessary resources to pay our staff in a manner that recognizes the important contributions they make to our District, our Community, our State, and our Nation.

Dr. Cory L. Gibson

Superintendent of Valley Center Schools – USD# 262

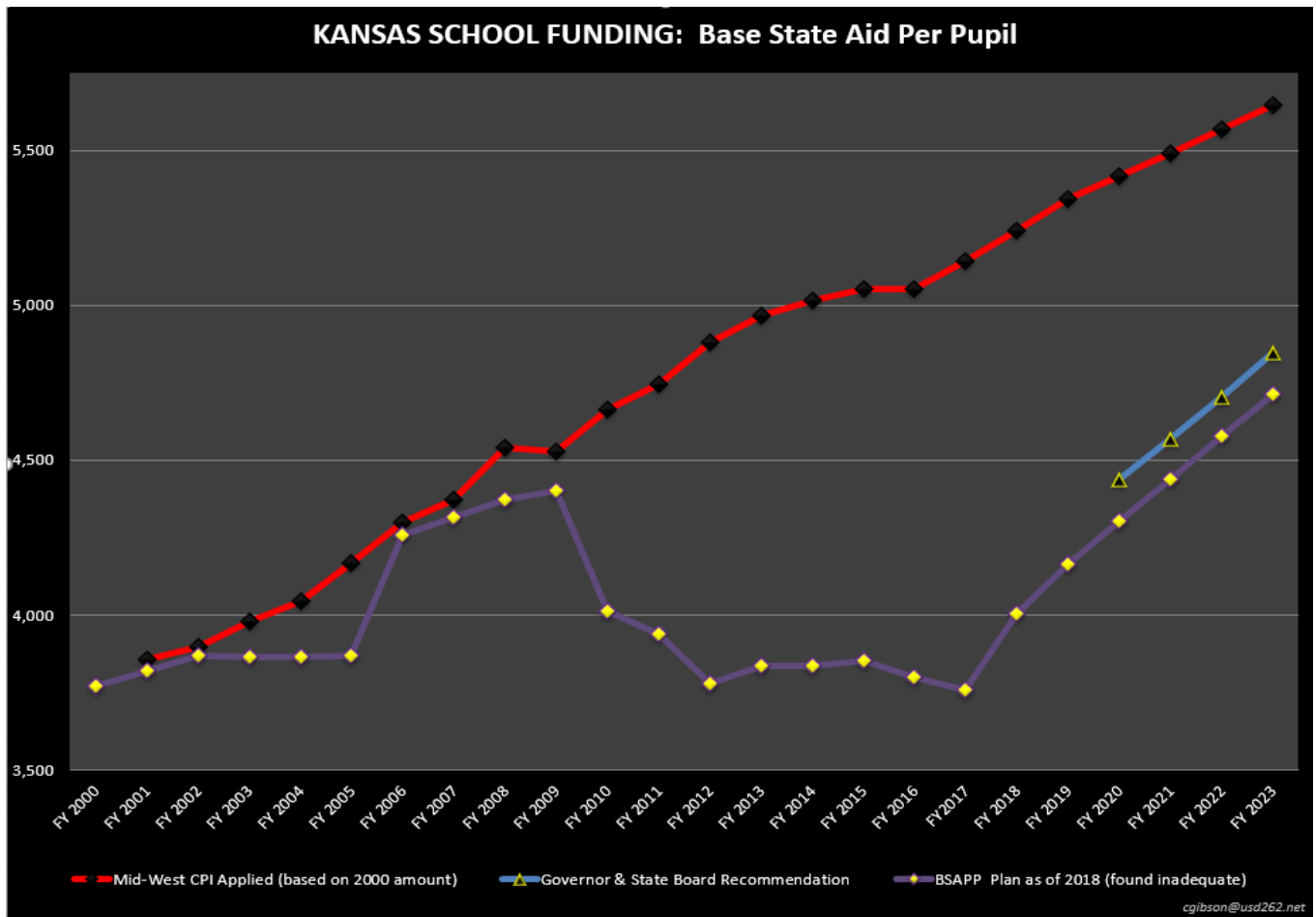
143 S. Meridian

Valley Center, KS 67147

<http://www.usd262.net> cory.gibson@usd262.net

(316) 755-7000

In closing, I am providing a graphic illustrating a historical view of our state's base funding per pupil (purple), the recommendation found in SB44 (light blue), and a view of what base funding would be if we kept up with inflation since 2000 (red).



We appreciate your service to our state and encourage you to keep our students in mind when making this important decision.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cory L. Gibson, Superintendent

OUR VISION:

To Be a Premier School District Known for Excellence in Education, Innovative Instruction, Outstanding Programs, and Dedication to Students.