



FORT LEAVENWORTH

Unified School District 207

207 Education Way
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-1425
913.651.7373

DATE: 1/31/22

To: Sen. Baumgardner and Senate Education Committee Members

From: Dr. Keith Mispagel, Superintendent, USD 207 Fort Leavenworth School District

Re: Proponent to Senate Bill #341

Madame Chairwoman and members of the Senate Education Committee, I am Dr. Keith Mispagel, Superintendent of Schools in the Fort Leavenworth School District (USD 207), submitting written testimony on behalf of the military dependent students and military families I'm fortunate to educate and serve. Please allow me to share some facts about my school district:

- The Fort Leavenworth School District, USD 207, is responsible for the education of approximately 1,700 military dependent children each year in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Ninth (per state statute) who represent highly mobile military careers and assignments to and from all over the country and world, to include over 100 students of International Officers representing over 50 countries.
- USD 207 has an annual student turnover rate of approximately 50% (54% this SY). With a 93% student turnover rate every three years, it is a rare event when a student can claim to have completed Pre-Kindergarten through 9th grade in our district. [Last year, it was three students total.]
- Federal Impact Aid funding from the United States Department of Education (USDoE) is outlined in Title VII of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).
 - **SEC. 7001. PURPOSE. (20 USC 7701)** *In order to fulfill the Federal responsibility to assist with the provision of educational services to federally connected children in a manner that promotes control by local educational agencies with little or no Federal or State involvement, because certain activities of the Federal Government, such as activities to fulfill the responsibilities of the Federal Government with respect to Indian tribes and activities under section 511 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, place a financial burden on the local educational agencies serving areas where such activities are carried out, and to help such children meet the same challenging State academic standards, it is the purpose of this title to provide financial assistance to local educational agencies that—*
 - (1) experience a substantial and continuing financial burden due to the acquisition of real property by the United States;
 - (2) educate children who reside on Federal property and whose parents are employed on Federal property;
 - (3) educate children of parents who are in the military services and children who live in low rent housing;
 - (4) educate heavy concentrations of children whose parents are civilian employees of the Federal Government and do not reside on Federal property; or
 - (5) need special assistance with capital expenditures for construction activities because of the enrollments of substantial numbers of children who reside on Federal lands and because of the difficulty of raising local revenue through bond referendums for capital projects due to the inability to tax Federal property.
- USDoE Federal Impact Aid is paid out to all 50 states based on eligible students counted by school districts and for Federal Lands no longer on tax rolls in these states.



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- Kansas includes Federal Impact Aid as part of the state aid calculation for Kansas Public Schools.
- Kansas is the **only** remaining state choosing to include Federal Impact Aid as part of the state aid education calculation formula. (New Mexico and Alaska were the other two states previously, but last year changed their statutory requirement, thus excluding Federal Impact Aid as part of their education funding formula calculation towards equalization.)
- There are currently 24 school districts receiving Federal Impact Aid in Kansas.
- The total number of students enrolled in these 24 districts is **44,104**. (Of which 8,730 are federally connected)
- Kansas is in the top 15 of states in the country with school-age active-duty military dependents.
- USD 207 (Fort Leavenworth School District) cannot conduct a bond issue because the district boundary is solely on Federal Property (as outlined in Kansas Statute).
- USD 207 (Fort Leavenworth School District) has completed over \$100,000,000 in school construction and capital improvements and has received \$0 from KSDE. (All other 285 Kansas Public School Districts are eligible for bond/interest payments for local bond issues passed by the community.)(Passing SB #341 meets the intent of Federal Law for USD 207 in using Federal Impact Aid funding for providing financial assistance due to a significant federal presence.)
- Kansas “scoring” for military family quality of life will be affected by being the only state choosing to utilize Federal Impact Aid as part of the equalization calculations.
- Top-level military leaders readily discuss Kansas as an option for the relocation of (or new placement of) missions and units...however, on a Federal level, Impact Aid as part of public education funding for equalization is a deterrent against final decision making at the DoD level.
- Districts serving high concentrations of mobile military-connected students face unique challenges in educating and supporting the social-emotional needs of military dependents. [Deployment, ELL, Mobility, Staffing, Student Academic Intervention, Special Education, program offerings, etc.]
- Because of the examples provided in the previous bullets, I support the successful passing of Senate Bill 341.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of Senate Bill #341.

Kansas is widely seen across the country as a military-friendly state. Kansas was also the first state to sign on to the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission, which now has the support of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Further steps in continuing Kansas’ long history as supporting our military and critical support for districts enrolling students living on Indian Lands and those with Federal Property acquired by the U.S. before 1938 would be recognized and supported in the successful passing of Senate Bill #341. This is now an excellent opportunity to pass SB #341 and promote Kansas as a leader in education and support for military families, Native American families, and Tribal communities, which would positively impact over 44,000 students across the state of Kansas.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Keith Mispagel
Superintendent of Schools
Fort Leavenworth School District
USD 207
207 Education Way
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027
913-651-7373
kmispagel@usd207.org