

I have been a public educator in Kansas since 1997. My son started receiving special education services in a Kansas public school in 2014.

2009.

2009 is the last year Kansas followed the special education funding formula to achieve the 92% set.

As an educator I am exhausted. My colleagues are exhausted. We constantly are asked to make something out of nothing to service the real needs of our special education students (because the funds aren't there to do it correctly).

As a parent I am livid. My son and his special education peers get one chance at each school year. They deserve more than subpar due to opportunistic decisions made by many who have never experienced the challenges they face daily. (They deserve 100%)

As a community member, I am frustrated. My son has been assigned to 5 different schools due to special education programming in our area and is only in the 6th grade. Due to lack of funding, special education programs are not offered at every school, segregating these students from their neighborhood peers and, in some instances, their own siblings. Constant change is exceedingly hard for special needs individuals. Special education staff turnover year to year is now the norm. Paraprofessionals are the "first responders" for our special education individuals. Our school district averages 10 paraprofessional job openings at any given time. Impossible to find and retain strong candidates when the hourly pay (can't compete with far less demanding jobs) averages around \$16 an hour and training is minimal.

Do what is obvious and has been promised though sadly neglected for years...  
Fully fund special education in Kansas.

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