

Written Testimony
submitted to the
Special Education Task Force
by
Jim Edwards – Lobbyist Representing
Topeka Public Schools – USD 501
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We appreciate the opportunity to provide this written testimony which will illustrate Topeka Public Schools – USD 501 support for the Kansas Legislature enacting legislation which would increase special education funding to its 92% mandated level.

Kansas public schools are mandated to provide Special Education services to qualifying students. Following is a synopsis of Special Education expenditures for the Topeka Public Schools to provide those mandated services in the 2022-2023 school year.

Total expenditures	\$42,340,712
Amount of total expenditures used for salaries	\$38,550,660
Amount of total expenditures coming from General Fund	\$24,984,871
Amount of total expenditures coming from LOB	\$12,112,164
General Fund expenditures coming from State Categorical Aid	\$17,286,226
Additional General Fund Expenditures to make up the difference	\$7,698,000
Total transfers of the LOB and General Fund (above Categorical Aid received) to Special Education are	\$19,810,164

The district receives Federal VI-B funds of approximately \$3,837,000 annually and additional money through Medicaid reimbursement.

I provide these numbers to emphasize the point that Topeka Public Schools – USD 501 is spending close to \$20,000,000 in excess costs to meet the mandates for educating students with special needs.

Kansas public schools have and will continue to educate special needs students across Kansas because it is the right thing to do. Likewise, we believe that it is time for the Kansas Legislature to meet the needs of those public schools by adhering to its standard of funding 92% of excess costs incurred.

We thank you for your consideration.