

DISTRICT SPENDING RESOURCES

More information at:
www.ksde.org

District Cash Balances Available:
www.kansasopengov.org



SCHOOL FUNDING FACTS FOR TEACHERS

As teachers, we need to be more proactive in attaining information and questioning selective data provided to us. As teachers, we impart to our students how important it is to think critically. We should do the same with school funding.

Don't take anything at face value.
Ask questions. Demand answers.
Knowledge is Power!
isn't just for kids.

As teachers, time is our most precious commodity. The ever-increasing demands on time makes it more difficult to keep up with daily classroom and school duties. And because of that, it's harder to keep up with issues that impact teaching going on outside the four walls of our classroom.

This guide is to help teachers better understand key elements of how education is funded and how those dollars are spent here in Kansas.

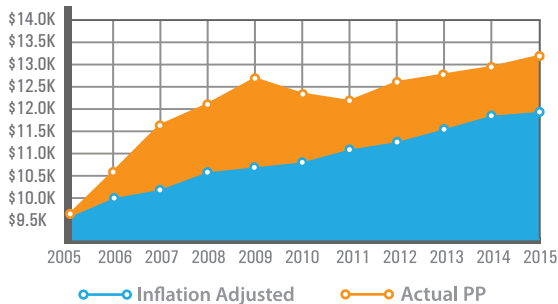


HOW SCHOOL FUNDING IMPACTS TEACHERS



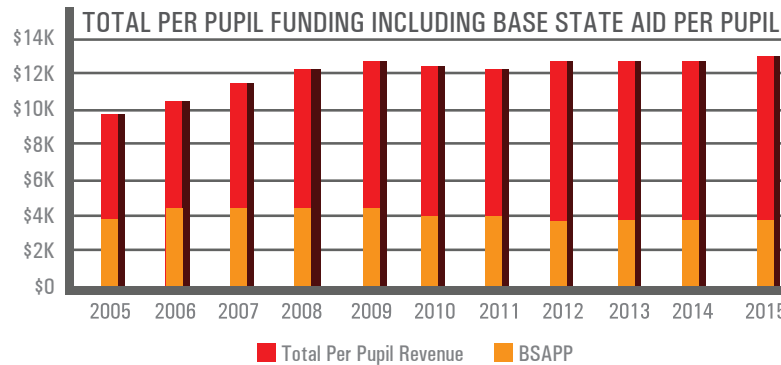
Funding is on the rise!

The State Legislature has repeatedly increased funding for schools in Kansas over the last decade. Total Per Pupil spending has climbed 35% while inflation has only gone up 21%. Even without considering increased contributions to secure KPERS, taxpayer support has increased 11% higher than inflation! They have even made the policy goal that 65% of all moneys to the district be spent **in the classroom or for instruction.**



The Whole Picture

Education funding is often referred to as Base State Aid Per Pupil. This only comprises about a third of all moneys a district has to fulfill our mission of educating our children. While schools are funded on average at \$13,124 per student, only \$3,852 is considered "BSAPP".



Safety Net

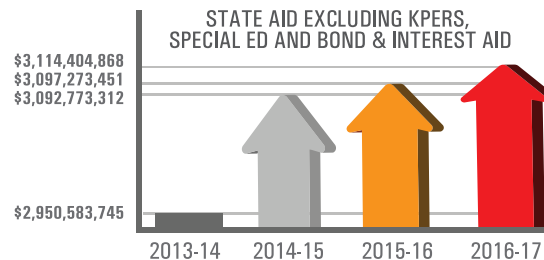
Schools also have a tremendous safety net of Cash Reserves. Due to the increase in state funding, over the last decade districts have been able to increase these operating reserves by hundreds of millions of dollars. School boards can free up these funds to help teachers meet the needs of our classrooms without any legislative authorization. You can view cash reserves your district has on hand at www.kansasopengov.org.

Local Empowerment

The State Legislature is responsible for funding education, but not for spending. Almost all spending decisions happen at the local level. Legislators don't decide how teachers are paid or spending allocations between classrooms, administration, or other functions; those decisions are only made by local school boards and administrators. To learn how your district is spending your money, you can search on the KSDE website; select "Policy and Funding," then "Budget Information" and choose "USD Budget Document."

Block Grants Boost!

While often misunderstood, the recent Block Grants increase funds for three years, in addition to KPERS. These funds actually give even more flexibility than the previous formula to our district for spending decisions.



Source: KSDE spreadsheets provided to legislators for block grant approval

STATEWIDE CARRYOVER CASH RESERVES

