



United School Administrators of Kansas  
515 S. Kansas Avenue Suite 201  
Topeka, Kansas 66603  
Phone: 785.232.6566  
Fax: 785.232.9776  
Web: www.usakansas.org

**Written Testimony on SB 57  
Senate Education Committee**

Cheryl L. Semmel, Executive Director  
February 17, 2011

The mission of United School Administrators of Kansas (USA|Kansas), through collaboration of member associations, is to serve, support, and develop educational leaders and to establish USA|Kansas as a significant force to improve education.

Education administrators remain committed to ensuring that each and every child in Kansas receives a quality education that will help them reach their potential and become successful, productive adults. There are 465,000 students in our public schools that we strive to impact positively every single day. As you know, Kansas students are making unprecedented academic achievement and we are on a path of continuous improvement.

USA|Kansas supports identifying opportunities to provide increased flexibility that will help maximize resources and impact districts as equitably as possible. This testimony is provided in **support of Senate Bill 57**, which amends K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-7433d in two ways:

- repeals the June 30, 2012 sunset date and
- changes the Base State Aid Per Pupil from \$4,433 to \$4,492 for purposes of calculating the Local Option Budget.

In 2009, the Legislature amended K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-6433d, allowing districts to adopt a Local Option Budget (LOB) for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years based on the 2008-2009 Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) amount of \$4,433.

Administrators support this “decoupling” from the general state aid, as it has allowed districts to offset the impact of reductions to the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) and other programs. This additional flexibility has been helpful given the extraordinary budgeting challenges we face.

Although this provision is not set to expire until next year, **we encourage you to support SB 57**. Taking action now will allow school districts to plan for the future.

In closing, on behalf of education administrators, I would like to thank you for your continued support of education and for realizing the importance of investing in education. Preparing our children requires a shared commitment, collaboration, and open dialogue among all stakeholders. Thank you for being partners in education.