

## **Summary of 2010 Commission Recommendations to the Legislature 2006 – 2009**

### **Education Funding**

- Change the Bilingual Student Weighting from a full-time equivalent weighting with contact hours to headcount and adjust to 0.2 from the current 0.395. (2006, 2007)
- Revise the high density formula to include a linear transition calculation. (2007, 2008)
- After a review on the topic, continue to distribute at-risk funding based upon the number of federal free lunch students in each district. (2007)
- Provide flexibility in funding to fund all-day kindergarten and four-year old at-risk programs. (2006, 2007)
- Fund the school finance formula in multi-year increments including annual inflation factor adjustments. (2006, 2008, 2009)
- Continue the military second count date. (2009)
- Increase the threshold amount per student of the Special Education Catastrophic State Aid Program to \$36,000. (2008)

### **Professional Support**

- Annual recommendations, often including monetary recommendations, regarding the importance of quality professional development, teacher mentoring programs, and leadership academies. (2006, 2007, 2008)
- Create a Teacher Retention Incentive Program targeted at teachers eligible for retirement teaching in hard-to-fill disciplines. (2008, 2009)

### **Educational Reform**

- Research and replicate successful innovative programs, such as professional learning communities and schools within schools. (2007)

### **Early Childhood Programming Reform**

- After a comprehensive review, recommendations to the 2008 Legislature included recommendations for shifting the Infant-Toddler (tiny-k) program from the Department of Health and Environment to the Department of Education; shifting the Early Head Start Program from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Education; and shifting the Pre-K Pilot Program from the Children's Cabinet to the Department of Education. In addition, the Commission recommended the Children's Cabinet move forward leading the Early Learning Coordinating Council in improving coordination and expanding services in early childhood programs not in the Department of Education. (2008)

### **Other**

- Make school districts' assessment data readily available to communities. (2007)
- Improve transparency and consistency related to school district accounting via improved accounting handbook training and revising accounting systems to provided requested data. (2008)

## **Statutory Charge to the 2010 Commission**

- Conduct continuous and ongoing monitoring of the implementation and operation of the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act and other provisions of law relating to school finance and the quality performance accreditation system;
- Evaluate the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act and determine if there is a fair and equitable relationship between the costs of the weighted components and assigned weightings;
- Determine if existing weightings should be adjusted;
- Determine if additional school district operations should be weighted;
- Review the amount of base state aid per pupil and determine if the amount should be adjusted;
- Evaluate the reform and restructuring components of the Act and assess the impact;
- Evaluate the system of financial support, reform, and restructuring of public education in Kansas and in other states to ensure that the Kansas system is efficient and effective;
- Conduct other studies, as directed by the Legislative Coordinating Council, relating to the improving, reforming or restructuring, and financing of the educational system;
- Conduct hearings and receive and consider suggestions from teachers, parents, the Kansas Department of Education, the Kansas Board of Education, other governmental officers and agencies and the general public concerning suggested improvements in the educational system, including financing of the system;
- Make any recommendations necessary to guide the Legislature in meeting its constitutional duties to provide for the intellectual, educational, vocational, and scientific improvement in public schools; and make suitable provision for the finance of the educational interests of the state; and
- Direct the work of the school district audit team within the Division of Post Audit.