



Administrators are mindful that the state continues to experience an unprecedented economic crisis as revenues continue to fall. At the same time, the need for appropriate educational services continues to rise. We remain focused on the goal that each child in Kansas will receive a quality education that helps them reach their potential and become successful, productive citizens. To this end, we ask that you **make no further cuts to K-12 public education** and support efforts to leverage resources, including administrative flexibility, at the local level to meet the needs of individual districts and the students they educate.

- **Contract notification deadline.** USA|Kansas supports a temporary waiver of the contract notification deadline (K.S.A. 72-5437) to extend the May 1 notification deadline to June 1. Recent history shows that the state budget has often not been determined until after May 1. In the absence of a multi-year finance plan and with the uncertainty of the state budget, the only choice many districts have is to nonrenew all non-tenured teachers on May 1, wait for final budget news, and then hope they can rehire staff they did not want to release in the first place. This change would allow districts to make decisions based on more accurate information about the financial resources available to the district. (SB 362)
- **Teacher contracts.** Administrators recognize that allowing new teachers time to strengthen and build upon those skills they have acquired through their educational experience is critical to their success. Administrators recommend amending K.S.A. 72-5445 to require teachers to complete not less than five (5) years of consecutive employment, with an offer of employment for six (6) years, replacing the current law reading “not less than three consecutive years of employment, and been offered a fourth contract.”
- **School bus retirement age.** USA|Kansas supports amending K.S.A. 8-2009a to extend the mandatory bus transportation retirement age from 20 to 25 years old. (HB 2486)
- **Special education funding for catastrophic aid.** USA|Kansas supports changing the current special education catastrophic aid formula to ensure that districts do not lose the necessary resources to support students. The intent of the Catastrophic Funding law was to provide additional financial support for districts providing services to extremely high-costs students. (SB 358, SB 359)
- **Unfunded mandates and burdensome administrative functions.** As new initiatives and opportunities arise, administrators encourage the Legislature to consider whether these initiatives enhance student learning, are more *effective* in achieving the desired outcome and whether there are sufficient new resources to support implementation and delivery. We strongly encourage you to oppose any new mandate that increases district administrative costs.

Kansans have been called upon to compromise and work together for the common good of the State. As education and community leaders, we remain committed to working with you in the days that lie ahead.