

**Testimony
HB 2699**

House Education Budget Committee

Presented by: Cheryl L. Semmel, Executive Director

March 3, 2010

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 bimpact positively every single day. As you know, Kansas students are making unprecedented academic achievement and we are on a path of continuous improvement. In many areas, Kansas students are performing **above** the national average and for that you should all be proud.

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.

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.”

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 and please know that we remain interested in working with you to ensure a bright future for Kansas children.

*USA|Kansas represents more than 2,000 individual members and ten member associations:

Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals
Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Administrators
Kansas Association of School Business Officials
Kansas Association of School Personnel Administrators
Kansas Assoc for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals
Kansas Council of Career and Technical Education Administrators
Kansas School Public Relations Association

