

## Week ending February 22<sup>nd</sup>

As turn-around grows near, the committee work picked up, especially on the House side. Monday, February 25 is the last day non-exempt committees can forward bills out to their respective chambers for potential action.

On Friday morning the House passed [SB 9](#), 117-0. The \$115 million KPERS payback bill is the first bill passed to Governor Kelly's office this session. The Senate passed SB 9 earlier this month, if the bill is signed by the Governor this money will draw down the State's reserves. This \$115 million, plus not reamortizing will directly affect the Governor's budget plans especially in years two and three.

### Committee Work

On Monday, the **Senate Education Committee** considered **SB 47**, which would create the student opportunity scholarship program. This would grant students who graduate a year early a scholarship equal to 95 percent of base aid that would be paid to the postsecondary institution the student attends, the district would receive the other 5 percent.

Also on Monday, the **House Education Committee** heard **HB 2233**, which would require school districts to provide a \$500 stipend for teachers for classroom supplies, USA-Kansas opposed HB 2233, saying the stipend proposal usurps local control.

On Tuesday, the Senate Education Committee voted **SB 16** out of committee, this bill would authorize school districts to expend at-risk funds on evidence-based learning programs. USA-Kansas was neutral on the measure. The bill was requested by the Jobs for America's Graduates-

Kansas program, the bill doesn't appear to change anything districts are already doing with at-risk funds.

Also on Tuesday, **HB 2257**, dealing with school bullying, was heard by the **House K-12 Education Budget Committee**, USA-Kansas testified as neutral on the bill, it makes no significant changes to current recommendations from KSDE.

On Wednesday, House Education held a hearing on **HB 2183**, which would require a computer science course for high school graduation and [HB 2330](#) another bullying bill outlining steps administrators must follow after receiving a report of bullying, HB2330 was a little more intrusive to the administrative workload, USA-Kansas shared this bill will have little to no effect on reducing bullying behavior. USA-Kansas was also opposed to HB2183.

After all the work done this week SB 44 still hasn't seen any movement in the [Senate Education Funding](#) committee, the House [K12 Budget Committee Chair Kristey Williams](#) made it perfectly clear her committee would not be hearing any finance bills. We are being encouraged to be patient and wait, but the clock is ticking.