

Week-ending January 18, 2019

The Apollo phase of redesigned was announced at the State Board Meeting January 15.

A major change to this phase is that the applications can come from a single school; two schools are no longer required from the same district. The application still requires an 80% or more staff buy-in, board approval, and support from a local professional organization.

The application must be completed and submitted by April 5, 2019. This phase will begin 2020-2021.

During Governor Laura Kelly's [State of the State Address](#) Wednesday night, she promised to end the cycle of litigation of school funding and meet the state Supreme Court's order to add more money to our schools.

The Governor's speech was stopped numerous times by standing ovations by the democrats, but the enthusiasm did not seem to trickle across the aisle. Although it should be noted, House Speaker Ron Ryckman did not stand but applauded with the democrats, while his counter-part, Senate President Susan Wagle often failed to respond to Governor Kelly's vision for the state.

In the Governor's first budget proposal, she would increase state foundation aid and special education by over \$200 million next year and \$553 million by fiscal year 2023 to satisfy the Gannon School Finance Case. The \$753 million includes new dollars to cover the inflation increase from 2012-2017 and appropriations approved last year in Sub for SB61.

The plan would also require nearly \$50 million in local option budget state aid to maintain the equalization formula.

The Governor has asked the Legislature to approve the plan by February 28, to give the Attorney General time to meet the Supreme Court's deadline for responding to last summer's Gannon VI decision.

The state foundation aid base per student this year is \$4,165. Under current law approved last session, the base is scheduled to increase to \$4,302 next year and rising to \$4,713 in 2023. The court approved this amount to reach constitutionally suitable funding but said if the Legislature phased-in that amount, it must add funding to recognize the impact of inflation. The Governor is recommending an inflation adjustment proposal developed by the Kansas State Board of Education.

The Kansas State Department of Education has posted a spreadsheet showing the impact of the higher base on each school district next year. A link can be found [here](#). The Governor's detailed budget proposal and budget director's presentation can be found [here](#).