



Public Education Organizations call for clean, policy-free school funding, and full support of local control.

Topeka- In communities throughout Kansas, local and neighborhood schools are a source of great pride because citizens know that their schools and their elected boards of education are a reflection of the local community, its values, and priorities. Kansans understand that those who know best what local students need to be successful are the parents, teachers, administrators, and locally elected boards of education who work and live in our local communities.

The passage of the Gannon school finance plan was a bipartisan agreement that is nearly complete. That plan has helped districts rebuild their budgets, hire staff and develop programs, and will help us recover from the COVID pandemic. Our organizations are committed to a system that helps every district better serve the needs of its students. We affirm the need for transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders as decisions are made at the local level regarding the needs, resources, and strategies for student success.

When local control is strong, school district priorities reflect the unique needs of the community. When the state tries to dictate teaching and learning, local control is eroded, and fulfilling the promise of public education becomes a one-size-fits-all proposition.

Kansas  National
Education Association

Today, United School Administrators of Kansas, the Kansas School Superintendents' Association, and the Kansas National Education Association urge both the Senate and the House of Representatives to work together to pass a budget that fully funds Kansas public schools without attaching policies that send the message that state-level politicians- not the local community- knows what is best for students.

In addition to calling for a clean and largely policy-free bill that fully funds public education in Kansas, we hope that the legislature will affirm the value of local control as the best way to ensure transparency, accountability, and communication between school and home. Our organizations fully support communication and participation with parents. However, legislation that misleads the public as a "parents' bill of rights," seeks to duplicate mechanisms that already exist while creating a digital barrier to authentic communication. This legislation also forces partisan interests into the classroom, threatens to make our schools less safe, and opens districts to costly litigation.

We call upon the Kansas Legislature to keep politics in Topeka and out of Kansas classrooms. We hope that the majority of legislators will recognize these efforts for what they are; government overreach, and an effort to strip school districts of local control. ***We call for a clean, policy-free, bill that fully funds Kansas public schools according to the state constitution. Further, we hope that our representatives will recognize the value of local control, listen to Kansas educators and parents, and abandon the harmful legislation falsely touted as a "bill of rights."***

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