

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2410

As Amended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2410 would make changes to the school finance formula related to at-risk students. If a student submits an application for free meals under the National School Lunch Act, and it is later determined that the student should not have been eligible, the school district or the Department of Education would notify the State Board of Education. After the notification, the Board would recompute the general fund budget of the school district based upon the adjusted enrollment, excluding the at-risk student. The amount of State aid to the affected district would be adjusted accordingly.

In addition, if a student became ineligible to receive free meals under the National School Lunch Act for failure to submit, in a timely manner, documentation necessary for verification of eligibility, the district would have until January 14 of the school year to submit the student's required documentation and avoid exclusion from the district's at-risk student count.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Legislative Post Audit Committee to address an issue raised in a November 2006 performance audit which reviewed the use of free-lunch counts as a basis for calculating at-risk funding to school districts.

The House Education Committee amended the bill by adding the opportunity for the submission of documentation

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

necessary for verification of free-lunch eligibility by January 14 of the school year. The amendment prevents a school district from being penalized because a student does not submit verification of eligibility under the National School Lunch Act, and subsequently provides the documentation.

A representative of the Wichita School District opposed the bill. Staff from the Legislative Division of Post Audit provided neutral, background testimony. There were no proponents of the bill.

The Division of Budget's fiscal note indicated that there would be a state aid reduction of approximately \$3,293,050 in Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 resulting from the ineligibility of approximately 1,800 students who would be counted as free-lunch students and later determined ineligible.