



USD 507 Satanta

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Dear Representative Williams and the K-12 Education Budget Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my written testimony in opposition to HB2738. With this bill, the legislature is simply playing a shell game rather than meeting their statutory requirement of funding 92% of the excess costs for special education services. This bill does not provide any additional funding for special education but rather decreases it.

According to the KSDE projections, USD 507 Satanta would stand to lose \$25,000 in funding if this bill were enacted, and we are a fairly lucky district. This may not seem like a significant amount of funding, but for a 1A district, \$25,000 could mean cutting a support position, such as a paraprofessional who offers support to our most at-risk students. Last school year, two USD 507 teachers retired. Because of the amount of money we were already transferring from our general fund to special education, we were unable to hire replacements for these teachers and instead had to absorb them through larger classes and fewer class offerings for students. Our grade school music and high school choir teacher is retiring this year. As we consider how to fill this position, \$25,000 could mean the difference between offering music classes to all of our students or only some.

Special education funding has real implications for school districts—both for special education students and general education students as well. Rather than playing numbers games, the legislature should allow the special education funding task force to do its job. Please fully fund special education.

Karen Burrows
USD 507 Superintendent

Every student, every day, whatever it takes.