

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE K-12 EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jason W. Goetz at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Jennifer Light, Legislative Research Department
Matthew Willis, Legislative Research Department
Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Rose Souter, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Kansas
State Department of Education
Ethan Spurling, Vice President of Policy & Government Relations, Sparkwheel
Logan Stensing, Policy Coordinator, Thrive Allen County
Haley Kottler, Campaign Director, Kansas Appleseed.
David Soffer, Director of Business Development and Government Affairs, WANRack
Kari Rinker, Region SR. State Government Relations Lead, American Heart Association
Dr. Maria Jose MJ Norero, State Affairs, Hazel Health, Inc
Timothy Graham, Director of Governmental Relations and Legislative Affairs, Kansas
National Education Association
Leah Fliter, Assistant Executive Director of Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

Chairman Goetz asked if there were any requests for bill introductions. Representative McDonald introduced bills numbered, 25RS0775; which would add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to the other health impairments portion of the special education qualifications, 25RS0786: this would add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to requirements for teacher preparation programs, 25RS0750: this would create Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness Day. With no objections, the bills were accepted for introduction.

Presentation on:

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Kansas State Department of Education, provided an in depth overview of the FY2025 and FY2026 Operating Budget and he gave us information on 4 proposed budget enhancements. ([Attachment 1](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on K-12 Education Budget at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in room 546-S of the Capitol.

Presentation on:

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner Of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Kansas State Board of Education. He addressed the Reduced Resources Proposal for the FY 2025 and FY2026 budget. ([Attachment 2](#)).

Public testimony

The Chair opened public comment on the Kansas K-12 Budget and enhancements.

Ethan Spurling, Vice President of Policy & Government Relations, Sparkwheel, spoke about student supports in Kansas. Their goal is to remove barriers and provide those they serve with tools and resources they need to thrive. ([Attachment 3](#))

Logan Stenseng, Policy Coordinator, Thrive Allen County, stated that their goal is to identify and advocate for policy solutions that effectively address the needs of Kansans involved in the work of early childhood education. ([Attachment 4](#))

Haley Kottler, Campaign Coordinator, Kansas Apple Seed, spoke about eliminating the copay for families receiving reduced-price school meals. ([Attachment 5](#))

David Soffer, Director of Business and Government Affairs, WANRack, spoke about an enhancement for schools to update and maintain effective internet systems. ([Attachment 6](#))

Kari Rinker, Region SR. State Government Relations Lead, American Heart Association, spoke to eliminating the co pay on student reduced price meals. ([Attachment 7](#))

Dr. Maria Jose, MJ Norero, Director State Affairs, Hazel Health Inc, spoke in support of increased access to mental health service for Kansas students. ([Attachment 8](#))

Timothy Graham, Director of Government Relations and State Affairs, Kansas National Education Association. He stated that the State of Kansas must insure the Kansas public schools are equitably and adequately funded. The co-pay on student lunches should be removed. ([Attachment 9](#))

Leah Fliter, Assistant Executive Director of Advocacy, Spoke to continuing to phase in Special Education Funding to prevent excess cost and reach the 92% the K-12 funding. ([Attachment 10](#))

Proponent Written Only testimony submitted:

Last Names A-H ([Attachment 11](#))

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on K-12 Education Budget at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, January 29, 2025,
in room 546-S of the Capitol.

Last Names I-P ([Attachment 12](#))

Last Names R-S ([Attachment 13](#))

The Chair closed the public comment on K-12 Education budget and enhancements.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:08