Transportation of Non-Resident Pupil, Special Education State Aid Formula, Alternative Formula for Calculating Local Option Budget, Contingency Reserve Fund, and Use of Unencumbered Funds; SB 11

SB 11 deals with transportation of non-resident pupils, the special education state aid formula, an alternative formula for calculating the local option budget, flexibility in the use of unencumbered funds, and balances in the contingency reserve fund.

Transportation of Non-Resident Pupils

The bill changes the school finance law to redefine non-resident pupil. The bill defines a non-resident pupil as a student or member of the student's family who lives 2.5 or more miles from the attendance center the student would attend in the district in which the student resides. (Prior law defined a non-resident pupil as a student or member of the student's family who lives ten miles or more from the resident attendance center.) The bill clarifies that provisions of the bill do not apply to school districts located in Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, or Wyandotte counties.

Special Education State Aid Formula

The bill repeals the portion of the special education state aid formula that determines the minimum and maximum amount of special education state aid a school district may receive.

Alternative Formula for Calculating Local Option Budget

The bill provides an alternative formula for calculation of the local option budget of a school district. The bill allows a school district to choose the 2008–09 special education state aid or the current year's special education state aid, whichever amount is greater, to calculate the amount of state aid that the district receives for its local option budget.

Flexibility of Unencumbered Funds

The bill allows a school district to continue to transfer unencumbered cash balances for the 2012–13 school year for general operating expenses of the district from each of the following funds: at-risk education, bilingual education, contingency reserve, driver training, parent education program, preschool-aged at-risk education, professional development, summer program, textbook and student materials, special education, virtual school, and vocational education. Up to one-third of the textbook and student materials and special education funds could be transferred for general operating expenditures of the district.

The maximum allowed to be transferred from the unencumbered funds could not exceed \$250 multiplied by the adjusted enrollment of the district.

Contingency Reserve Funds

Finally, the bill allows a school district to keep up to 10.0 percent of the district's general fund budget in a contingency reserve fund. The bill does not have an expiration date related to