



Deerfield USD 216

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House Committee on Education
House Bill No. 2040
In Support

Thank you for taking the time to read and hear testimony on this bill. Since 2020 our school district has seen significant growth for a 1A school. We have grown just under 100 students. Under our current formula, we are required to hire staff and make the necessary changes to ensure we provide the best possible education experience for those students without seeing the funding for those students until the following year. Not only are we growing in numbers, but the majority of our growth has been in ELL learners, so we not only have to add staff to continue to support our growth, we have to add specific staff such as ELL/Newcomers teachers and other bilingual staff. A recent example of our growth was when we returned from break this January; we enrolled ten new students in the first week of school. Under our current formula, we will not see funding for these students for a year and a half.

Until block grants were introduced in 2015, school districts in Kansas were able to get funding based on current-year enrollment, prior-year enrollment, or the 3-year average, whichever was higher. Under this change in the funding formula, you are considering districts in declining enrollment are not affected by this change, and those who are growing can get the support they need financially.

Once again, thank you for your work and consideration of this legislation. I believe it is a step in the right direction to help those school districts experiencing growth and ensure they can provide the appropriate staff and resources to those students.

Thank you for your consideration and time.
Tyson Eslinger
Superintendent of Schools
USD 216 Deerfield

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