



Unified School District 232

De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe
www.usd232.org

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USD 232 Legislative Priorities 2023 Kansas Legislative Session

*****Draft*****

USD 232 is proud of the excellent educational opportunities provided for our students. Our community has high expectations for our students' future success. In order to continue our tradition of excellence, we rely on the important partnership with the Kansas Legislature. We look forward to a productive 2023 legislative session focused on the success of our state. The future of Kansas rests with the students who are attending our public schools and our public schools rely on all of us working together.

Kansas Constitution

USD 232 supports the intent of the Constitution of the State of Kansas where by local school boards are given the responsibility to operate school districts under the general supervision of the state board of education. USD 232 opposes amendments to the Kansas Constitution that would change the current governance structure or financing responsibility. The current wording in the Kansas Constitution helped ensure adequate and equitable support for public schools for more than fifty years. During that time, the need for an educated citizenry in Kansas has become even more important and must be protected.

Public School Funding

USD 232 endorses the full implementation of current school funding statutes. As such, USD 232 urges the state to follow K.S.A 72-5132 (e6) when computing the 2023-24 BASE and to appropriate adequate funding. When allocating funding for special education, we believe K.S.A. 72-3422 should be applied as currently written. Additionally, USD 232 supports making High Density At-Risk funding a permanent part of the funding formula. Given that the current funding statute allows multiple ways to calculate enrollment for districts with declining enrollment, USD 232 supports the addition of a calculation whereby growing districts can receive funding for student growth in the current year.

Non-Resident Transfers

USD 232 supports the authority of local school boards to determine if they will accept nonresident student transfers. If a district decides to accept nonresident transfers, the board should be allowed to adopt equitable processes to determine how many nonresident students are accepted. This should include a provision to allow the district to give primary consideration for out-of-district transfers of employees' students. Additionally, a district's policy should be able to account for changes to in-district enrollment that increases over time and which no longer supports the continuation of nonresident student transfers.

Parental Engagement

USD 232 is proud of the support we receive from our families and communities. Our parents are always encouraged to be partners in their children's education. There are multiple ways for parents to learn more about their child's school, get involved and provide input. There is no need for complex and onerous reporting mechanisms that are part of an outside agenda that are not relevant to Kansas.

School Bonds

USD 232 endorses the removal of the cap on school bonds. The cap is based solely on the amount of past debt and it is not sensitive to the current needs of school districts. Additionally, USD 232 supports an equitable bond state aid formula to help districts provide safe and effective facilities.

Mental Health

USD 232 endorses the commitment of additional resources for community mental health services. The lack of available community mental health resources has a dramatic impact on students at school. USD 232 understands that we are a vital partner in addressing the mental health concerns faced by our students but a focus on the whole community is a more productive way to positively impact the mental health crisis.