



Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services

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July 29, 2009

TO: Legislative Educational Planning Committee

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Catastrophic Aid

Concerns are being expressed about the catastrophic special education law. The major issue centers on what is catastrophic. We have provided background information and options for your consideration when discussing this issue.

Currently, students eligible for catastrophic state aid is any student whose special education services cost \$25,000 or more including transportation. This law was passed in 1994.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Average Teacher Salaries including Fringe Benefits

1993-94	Est. 2008-09	Percent Increase
\$ 33,913	\$ 52,869	55.9%

Total Special Education Expenditures

1993-94	Est. 2009-10	Percent Increase
\$ 305,736,000	\$ 816,700,000	167%

If you increase the catastrophic amount provided in KSA 72-983 adopted in 1994 and apply the increase in the cost of special education, catastrophic state aid per student would be approximately \$66,750

Listed below is a table which provides a history of the number of students qualifying for catastrophic state aid and the amount of state aid.

Fiscal Year	No. of Students Qualifying for Catastrophic Aid	Catastrophic Aid
2001	60	\$ 1,473,441
2002	62	1,513,457
2003	84	1,665,069
2004	85	1,242,160
2005	87	1,100,192
2006	131	2,168,805
2007	185	3,330,818
2008	276	6,005,454
2009	758	12,023,698

We have also provided the attached history of the number of students that have applied for catastrophic aid for the last four years by local special education units.

2010 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Set the catastrophic state aid amount based upon twice the previous years' categorical state aid per teacher less special education state aid.

EXAMPLE -- The estimated amount for the 2009-10 school year would be twice the categorical state aid per teacher (\$28,760) for 2008-09 which results in \$57,520 per teacher less state special education categorical aid and state transportation aid.

Cost of Special Education Student Services	\$ 75,000
Less Special Education State Aid (teachers, paras, transportation)	\$(15,000)
Net Cost to School District	\$ 60,000
Two times categorical aid per teacher of preceding year (2 X \$28,760 – 2008-09)	\$ 57,520
Difference	\$ 2,480
Percentage Determined by State Law	.75
Additional State Aid	\$ 1,860

Catastrophic Aid Applications

Agency		FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
202	Turner - Kansas City	0	0	0	1
229	Blue Valley	38	69	87	129
230	Spring Hill	0	0	0	1
231	Gardner Edgerton	1	1	1	3
232	De Soto	1	3	2	1
233	Olathe	9	23	85	122
259	Wichita	25	19	19	61
260	Derby	3	1	2	0
261	Hayesville	3	5	7	16
263	Mulvane	1	1	1	0
272	Waconda	0	0	1	0
273	Beloit SPED COOP	0	3	6	5
282	Chautauqua & Elk Co SPED COOP	0	0	0	1
290	Ottawa	0	0	2	1
298	Lincoln	0	0	1	0
305	Central KS COOP Salina	0	0	0	6
320	Special Services COOP of Wamego	0	3	2	0
330	Mission Valley	1	1	0	0
333	Learning COOP of N.C. Ks, Concordia	4	5	4	8
345	Seaman	2	2	2	2
346	Jayhawk	0	1	0	0
364	Marshall Co. SPED COOP	0	1	2	2
368	E.C. KS SPED COOP, Paola	1	0	1	1
373	Harvey Co. SPED COOP	0	4	5	2
379	Twin Lakes SPED COOP, Clay Center	1	1	1	1
383	Manhattan-Ogden	1	1	0	0
409	Atchison	0	0	1	1
418	Mc Pherson Co. SPED COOP	6	2	0	1
437	Auburn-Washburn	1	1	3	3
441	Sabetha	1	1	1	1
450	Shawnee Heights	0	1	1	0
453	Leavenworth Co. SPED COOP	1	0	0	1
480	Liberal	0	0	1	1
489	Hays W. C. Ks Educational Coop	0	0	0	1
490	Butler Co. SPED COOP	2	1	1	3
491	Eudora	0	0	0	1
497	Lawrence	0	5	2	0
500	Wyandotte Co. SPED COOP	2	1	0	4
501	Topeka	3	7	9	11
512	Shawnee Mission	0	0	0	333
602	N.W.KS Ed Serv. Ctr	6	5	4	2
603	ANW SPED COOP	5	6	5	11
607	Tri-County SPED COOP, Independence	4	2	1	2
610	Reno Co. SPED COOP	0	0	0	1
611	High Plains SPED COOP	0	2	1	0

Catastrophic Aid Applications

Agency		FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
613	S.W. KS. SPED COOP	3	1	1	1
618	Sedgwick Co. SPED COOP	1	1	2	1
637	S.E. KS. Interlocal	5	5	12	18
	Total Catastrophic Aid applications	131	185	276	760