

# School Finance for Student Achievement

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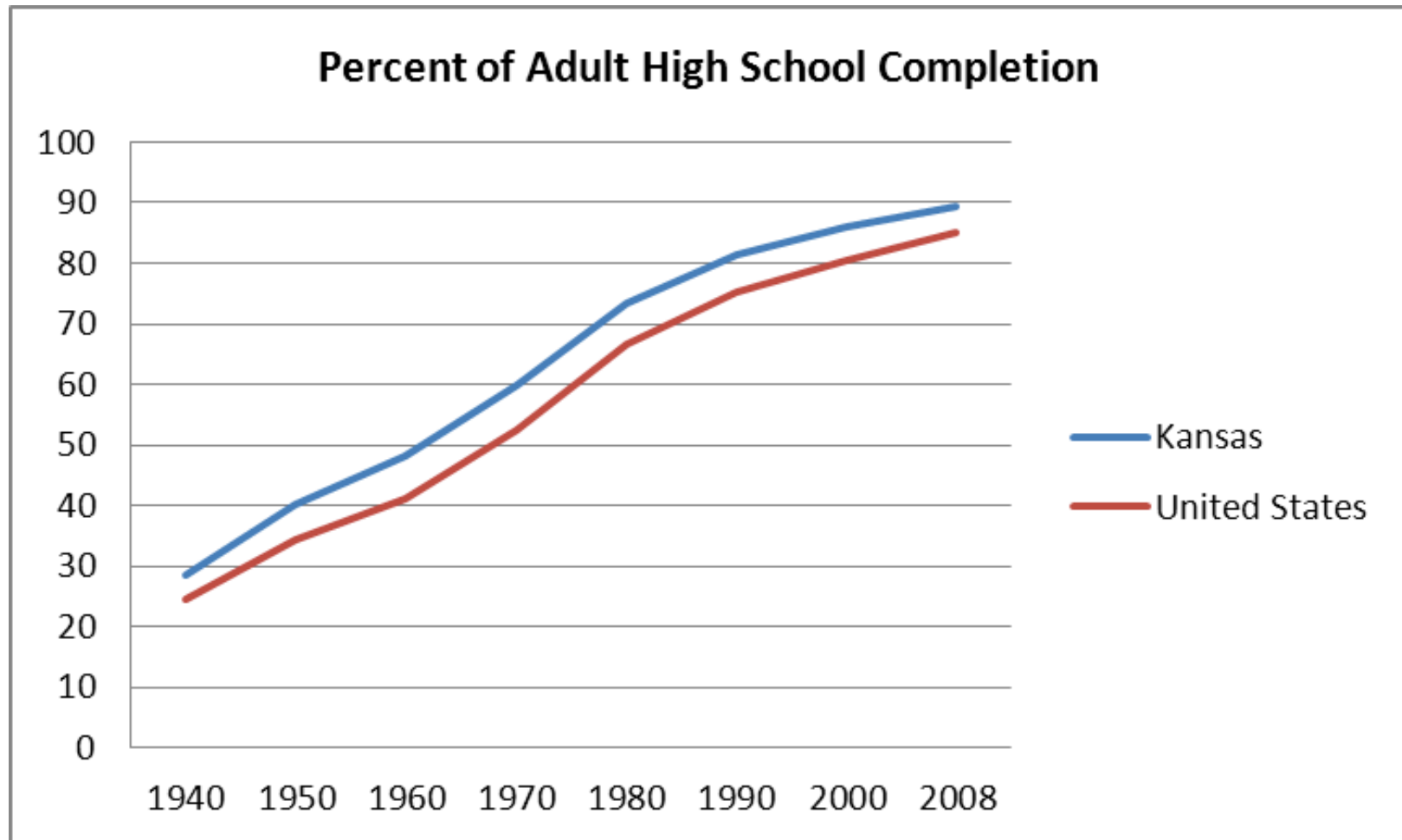
Baldwin City High School

December 5, 2011

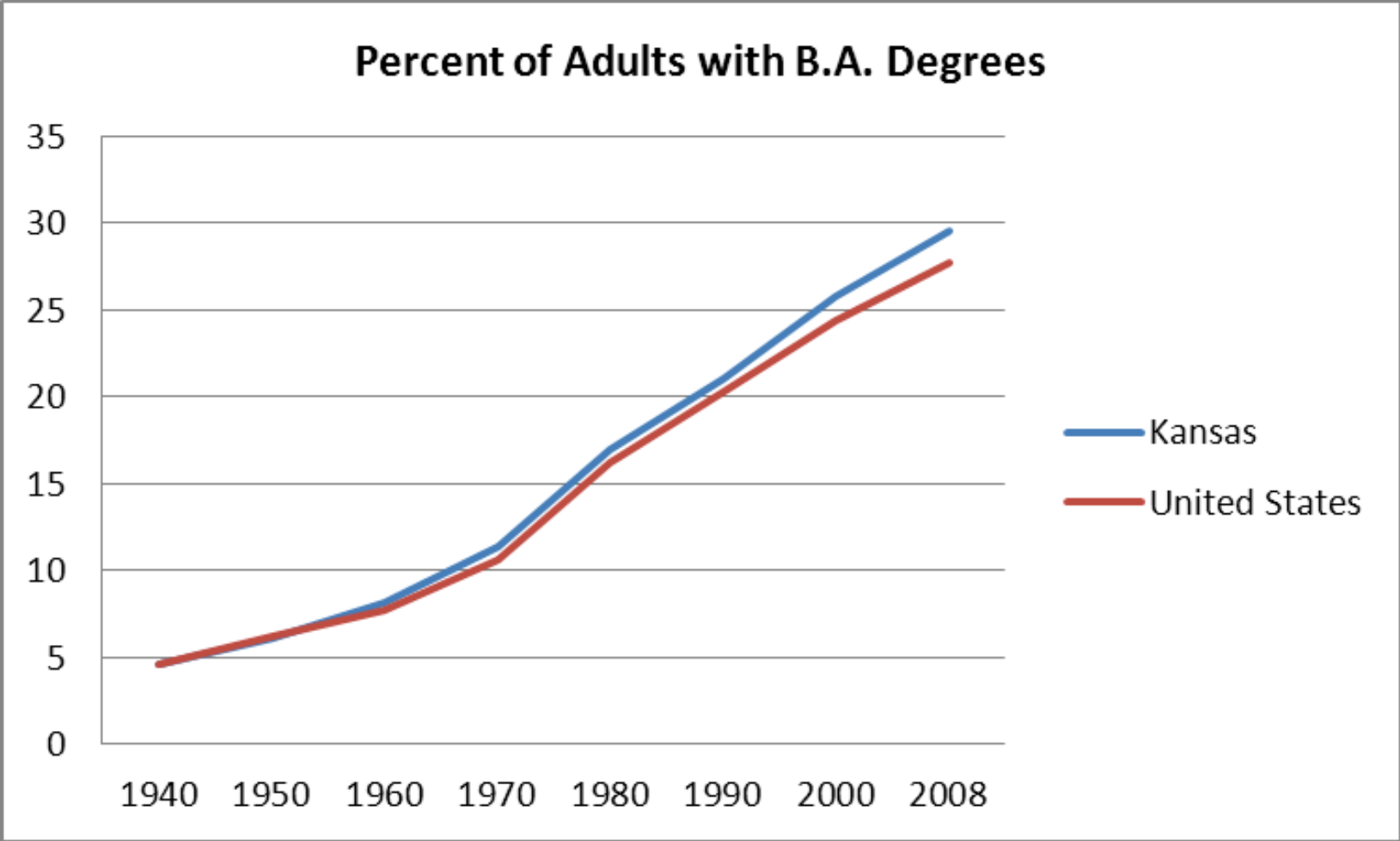
# Kansas Constitution, Article 6

- 1) Intellectual, educational, scientific and vocational improvement,
- 2) Through a system of public education,
- 3) Public schools maintained, developed and operated by local elected boards,
- 4) Under general supervision of the State Board,
- 5) Suitable provision for finance by Legislature,
- 6) No public education funds controlled by

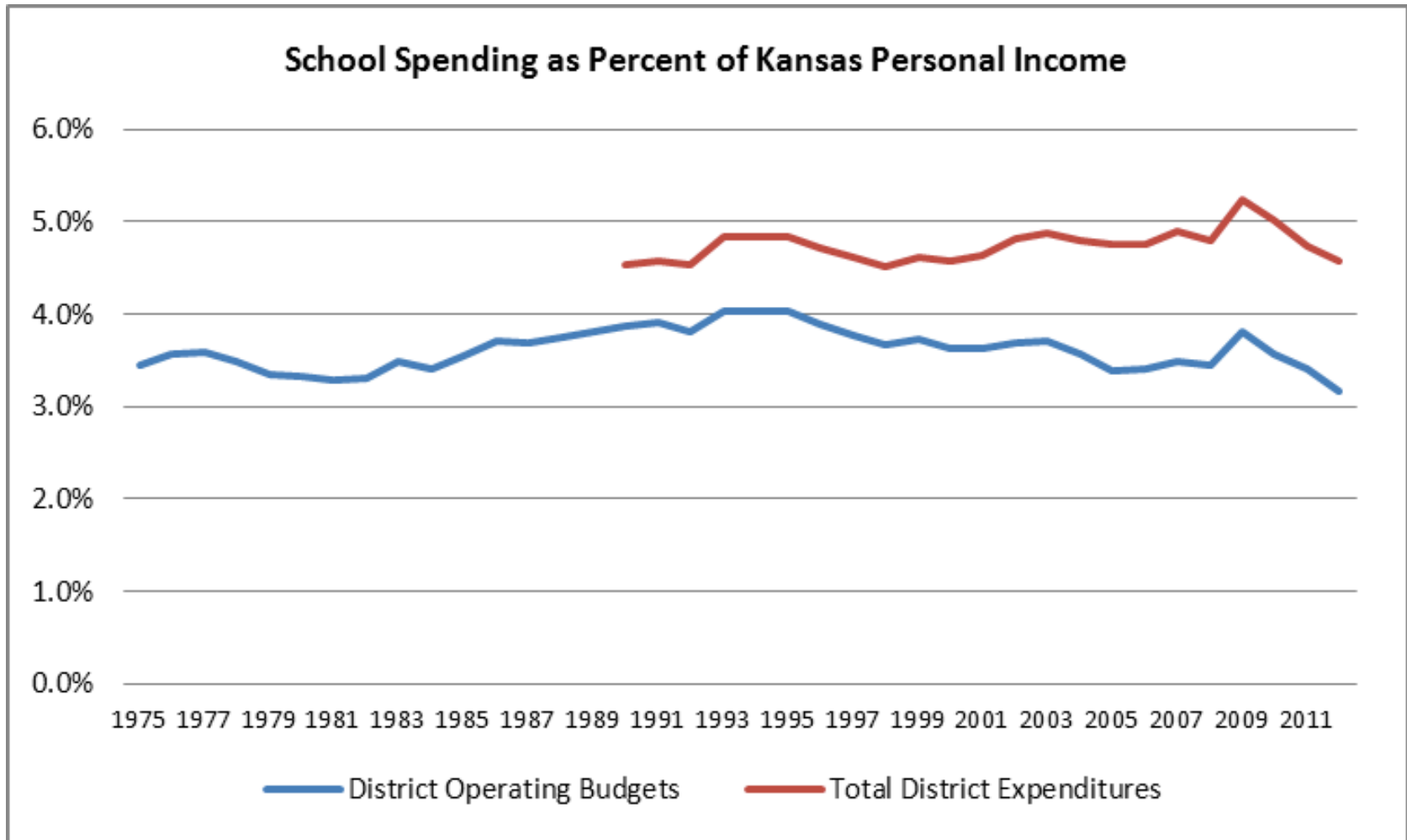
**Kansas high school completion tripled from 1940 through 2008, and increased 50% since 1970.**



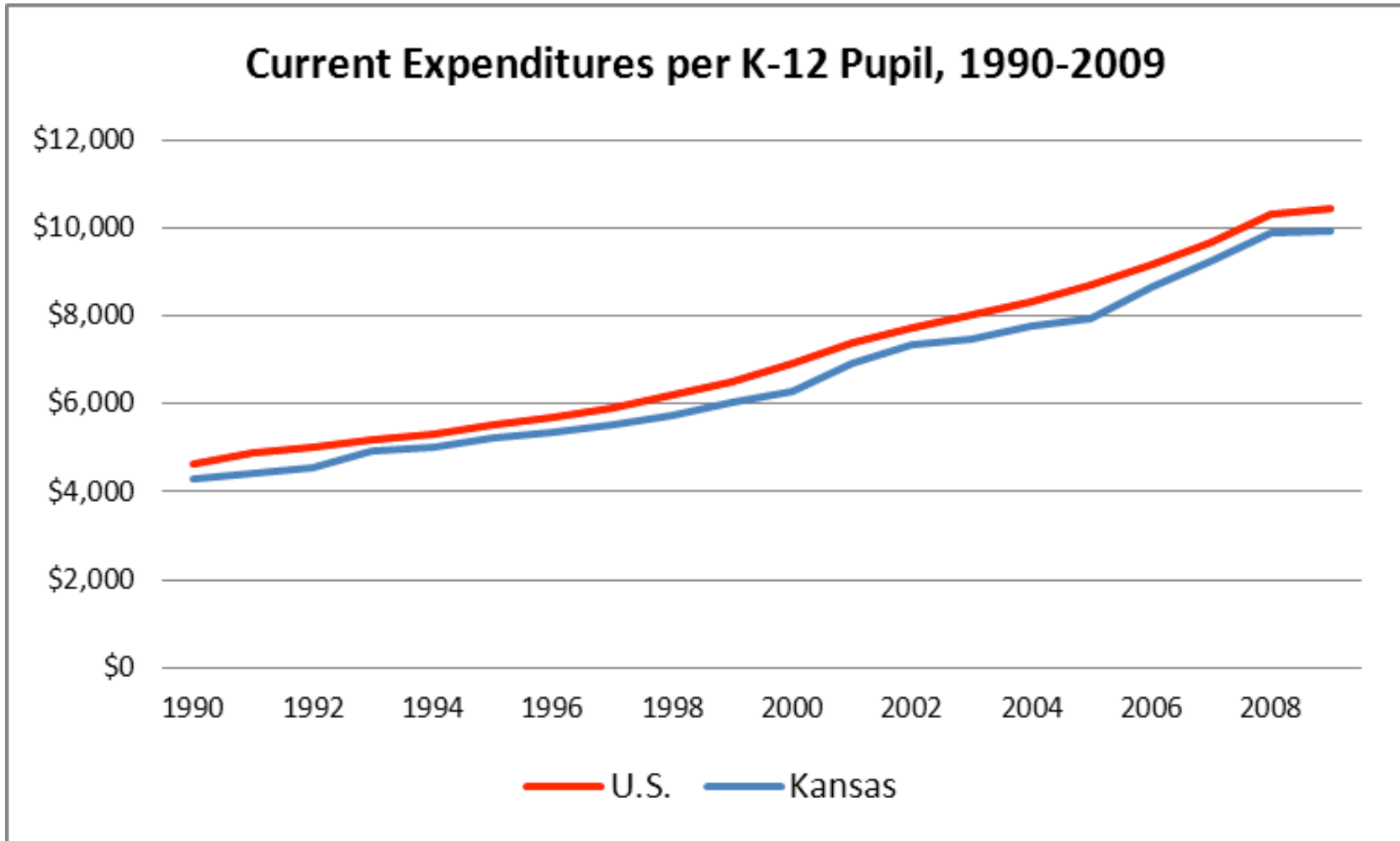
**The percent of Kansas adults with at least a four-year college degree is six times higher than 1940, tripled since 1970.**



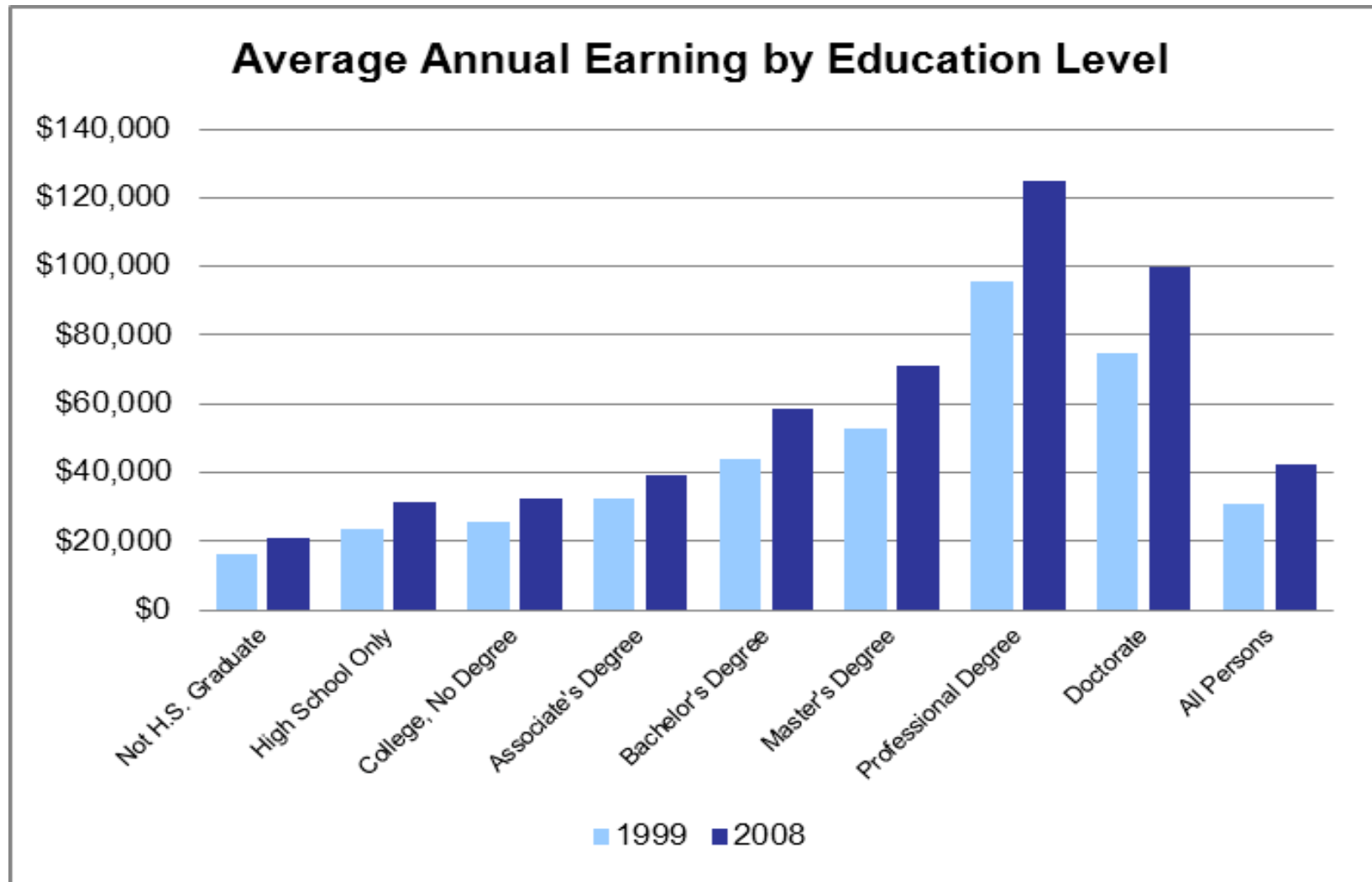
# Spending on K-12 education compared to Kansans' income has been stable for decades.



# Kansas per pupil spending has been below the national average for at least two decades.



# Increasing educational attainment is vital to economic prosperity.



# **KASB Steps to a New Agenda**

- **What Kansans believe about improving education:**
  - ✓ **Kansas Constitution**
  - ✓ **Listening Tour, Local Meetings**
  - ✓ **Public Opinion Survey**
  - ✓ **Kansas Conversation**
  - ✓ **Regional Education Summits**

# KASB Priorities



*Goal: “First in Education, the Kansas Way*

- ▶ **Improving Education** – New accountability system, broader college/career goals, individual student focus, strengthen evaluation, public engagement.
- ▶ **Suitable Finance** – State funding for all requirements and outcomes, equity in local funding, maintain at-risk aid; tax policy to support high quality education and other needs.
- ▶ **Local Leadership** – Decisions at local level, review mandates; keep independent State Board; no public funding for private schools without local oversight.

# School Finance: the Big Picture

- Start by understanding the very complex school finance system in its basic parts.
- Kansas school districts will receive and spend about \$5.5 billion from all sources and for all purposes this year.
- Divide that by about 460,000 students comes to about \$12,000 per student – three times the base budget per pupil.
- It may be helpful to divide that \$5.5 billion roughly into four major categories.

# Major components of finance

- Unrestricted state aid = \$2 billion  
(Base times FTE students, plus enrollment weights)
- Targeted state aid = \$1 billion  
(Special ed, at-risk, bilingual, vocational, transportation)
- Targeted federal aid = \$450 million  
((\$400 million federal aid for special ed, Title programs, meals)
- Local Option Budgets = \$1 billion  
(Generally, spend how you want)
- Capital and debt, KPERS, other = \$1.1 billion  
((\$1.1 billion for capital outlay, bonds, KPERS, student fees for meals, books, etc.; all other local)

# Where does the money come from?

- Unrestricted state aid – State aid and 20 mills
- Targeted state aid – State aid and 20 mills
- Targeted federal aid – Federal formulas; mostly based on student income
- Local Option Budgets – Local mill levies and state “equalization” aid.
- Capital and debt, KPERS, other – State KPERS payments, local mill levies for capital outlay and bonds (state aid for bond only), student fees for books, meals, buses, activities, etc.

# How was increased funding used?

- Since 1993: total school funding increased **\$3 billion**.
- Keeping up with inflation/teacher salaries (60% increase) alone required **\$1.5 billion**. (Base aid and enrollment weightings plus LOB increased just \$1.2 billion.)
- Special ed aid, targeted weightings and federal aid increased **\$1 billion** to improve achievement.
- Remaining **\$500 million**: KPERS increase; improving buildings and equipment from capital outlay, bonds approved by local voters.

# What were the results?

- Improving achievement on state tests, especially by targeted subgroups.
- Improvement on national tests, top ten ranking.
- Kansas public schools usually equal private school results for all students and do better for low income.
- Percentage of students graduating high school increased, more graduates tested for college (ACT), college test scores increased – 6<sup>th</sup> in U.S. overall.
- All occurred as the percentage of low income, minority, English Learners and disabled students

# School Finance for Achievement

- Reverse budget cuts, increase funding.
  - ✓ Legislative Post Audit study.
  - ✓ Ten-year track record.
  - ✓ Higher achieving states spend more than Kansas.
  - ✓ Governor wants to allow districts to spend more: why allow more spending if it doesn't matter?
  - ✓ Funding allows competitive salaries, smaller classes, special assistance, professional development, broader curriculum.

# School Finance for Achievement

- Maintain support for low enrollment schools for strong rural communities.
- Maintain focus on low income and other “at-risk” factors to sustain improvement.
- Fund full-time kindergarteners as full-time students, and increase other early childhood programs.
- No “competitive” grants for required programs.

# School Finance for Achievement

- Legislature has constitutional responsibility to provide funding – because local districts do not have equal resources to provide equal opportunity.
- Cutting back state funding for more local funding divides state between the advantaged and disadvantaged unless equalized with state aid – which require more state funding, not less.

# School Finance for Achievement

- Lack of state aid is already increasing mill levies, widening disparity.
- County sales tax – deep concern this will be little benefit to most areas, because sales tax is concentrated in major retail areas – will they participate?
- Major concern that lowering state income tax will drive up local property taxes.

# What is not the Kansas Way?

- Reducing our historical share of income invested in education.
- Reversing the goal of equal opportunity for students to save money.
- Narrowing the focus of education to only the “basics” of curriculum.
- Circumventing local school boards to weaken authority of local voters in managing schools.

# What is not the Kansas Way?

- Using public funding to support religious or private schools that do not have to serve all children or have the same accountability as public schools.
- No evidence charters, vouchers, etc. improve state educational performance.
- Why would we want to follow the examples of less successful states?

# It not just about money!

- Funding is a minimum requirement. Just as important are:
  - ✓ Clear goals, expectations and accountability at all levels.
  - ✓ Using funding effectively.
  - ✓ Letting local leaders made decisions about the students they know best – their own community’s children.
- That’s the Kansas Way! Join us in making Kansas first in the nation in education!