Kansas ranked among top states in student achievement and efficient spending

The Kansas public school system is the “Moneyball” of education in the country.

Moneyball refers to a book and film that shows how a low-spending baseball team was able to compete at the highest level against teams that spend much more money.

The Kansas public school system mirrors that situation.

The latest release of national reports on education achievement and funding show Kansas continues to rank among the top states in student success, while spending less than any other high ranking state.

Kansas ranks eighth in the nation based on the most recent data for high school graduation rates for 2013, NAEP reading and math tests for 2013, and the percent of young adults with postsecondary education completion for 2012.

In spending, Kansas ranked 27th out of the 50 states in total revenue per pupil from all sources, according to a new report released by the U.S. Census Bureau this week on public education finances for 2013. Every other state in the top 16 ranked by overall achievement had higher total revenue per pupil than Kansas.

“The data shows no state has better student results with fewer resources than Kansas,” said KASB Associate Executive Director Mark Tallman.

Kansas’ rank of eighth in achievement was 19 places higher than its funding rank of 27th. Only three states had a higher positive differential between achievement and spending and it is important to note that Kansas ranked far ahead of those states (Utah, Texas and North Carolina) in student achievement.

“As the Legislature and judicial branch consider appropriate levels of school funding, this new data confirms what we have seen in the past,” Tallman noted. “Improving educational outcomes, as required by the Kansas Constitution, will require more resources.”

“Three facts are clear from the most recent data. First, Kansas ranks among the top states in helping students achieve success. Second, the Kansas school system is one of the most efficient in the nation when comparing results with funding. Third, the amount of funding clearly matters in student success. Every one of the other top 16 states had higher funding per pupil than Kansas. Every single state with lower total funding per pupil had lower achievement.”

The total revenue per pupil rank of 27th for Kansas in 2013 was the same as in 2012.

This report shows Kansas ranks relatively high in state funding (19th) but much lower in local funding (31st) and federal funding (44th). Tallman observed, “If state funding is reduced or limited by state tax policies, Kansas will either have to rely more heavily on local sources or fall further behind other states in funding public schools, and possibly further behind in student success.”

Kansas, like the small-market baseball team detailed in Moneyball, spends wisely and competes at a high level.

Find more about this, including graphic illustrations online at www.kasb.org/wcm/_NB/15/NB0604.aspx

KNEA tenure lawsuit dismissed

On Thursday, June 4, 2015, the lawsuit filed by the Kansas National Education Association seeking to overturn the repeal of the teacher due process system last year as a violation of the “one subject” rule of the Kansas Constitution was dismissed.

The district court granted the State’s Motion to Dismiss, determining that Senate Substitute for House Bill 2506 was not an omnibus appropriations bill and thus, did not violate the one subject rule.

The Kansas Constitution states: “No bill shall contain more than one subject, except appropriation bills and bills for revision or codification of statutes.” In previous decisions, the Kansas Supreme Court has held that appropriations bills may not contain non-appropriations provisions.

HB 2506 contained numerous education policies changes, including repeal of a teacher’s right to a hearing before an independent hearing officer if the school board decided to nonrenew the contract of a teacher who had been employed by the district for at least three years and offered a fourth contract. It included appropriations for K-12 education programs, such as funding to comply with a court order to address state aid for local option budget and capital outlay equalization aid as required by the Gannon decision.

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President’s Message June 2015  
by Rod Stewart, KASB President

It may be a cliché, but it really doesn’t seem possible my year as KASB president is coming to an end. I know time moves faster as we get older, but this year seemed to fly by at warp speed!

As I reflect on this year, there are so many thoughts that come to mind. First, of course, is the incredible support I’ve received from my wife, Kannette, and our two kids, Ashley and Ryan. As many of you know, we run a farm and seed business north of Washington, Kansas. Their willingness to go the extra mile gave me the time to spend in Topeka or on other KASB business.

At the 2014 Delegate Assembly, I challenged the delegates to “Stand Up, Step Up and Speak Up for Public Education.” I am humbled by how many of you answered that call. During this Legislative Session, we started “Wednesdays at the Statehouse” and encouraged board members to bring students to the Statehouse to advocate for schools. We had Kansas board members in attendance at almost every Wednesday of the regular session. I have had many lobbyists tell me the presence at the Statehouse definitely had a huge impact. We didn’t always get what we wanted, but we made a difference by improving many bills before they were passed.

The KASB Board began a new tradition of having one of its meetings in the President’s hometown, which means everyone gathered in Washington, Kansas in March. It brought a different perspective to our board and has received a lot of attention from members across the state. Anytime we get a chance to visit other districts, it makes us better board members and leaders.

This was the first full year for KASB’s new logo and rebranding efforts. Changing a logo that has been used for – well, more years than anyone can remember – was no small feat. Three years ago, the board adopted new mission and vision statements as part of its strategic planning. The new logo and rebranding were part of putting the plan into action. The board has done a great job of promoting the new look. I have received many positive comments about the new logo and how professional we look when wearing it on our KASB apparel.

The final milestone I would highlight is the agreement we reached in January 2015 between NEA Kansas, USA Kansas, KSSA and KASB on proposed changes in the Professional Negotiations Act. The discussions started before my tenure as president, but I was honored to represent KASB, along with our Executive Director John Heim, during the final meetings as we worked to build consensus. The four groups have committed to meeting on a regular basis to promote greater communication and cooperation between us.

As I prepare to hand over the leadership of KASB to our President-Elect, Don Shimkus, I am reminded of a quote by Henry Ford: “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” There are big challenges ahead, particularly in the next two years with a new school finance formula and changes in school accreditation. These and other important issues will require us all to remain involved, active and united in our vision for a better future for our children through Kansas public education.

My tenure as your president comes to an end June 30, 2015, though I will remain involved as the past-president. I am filled with gratitude for the support and encouragement I have received from my family, my fellow board members all across Kansas and the staff of KASB. Thank you – to each one of you - for this incredible opportunity.
**KASB Board, Legislative Committee hear from New Education Commissioner**

Dr. Randy Watson, incoming Kansas Commissioner of Education, outlined a plan implementing a new vision for Kansas education at the KASB Board of Directors and Legislative Committee meetings on June 6, in Topeka.

Dr. Watson shared results and impressions gained over the past few months from the Kansas State Board of Education’s listening tour which included 20 stops across Kansas and meetings with area business leaders. The State Board continues to seek input from businesses and other stakeholders, and will use the information to begin shaping a vision for Kansas public education.

“This is an opportune time for leadership,” Dr. Watson said. “We’re all working hard, but are we doing the right work? Are we preparing students for success after graduation and to live his or her dream?”

Dr. Watson hopes to partner with KASB in addition to leadership organizations for teachers and administrators to develop the vision, then use the vision to present a plan to the Legislature on school funding.

Following the discussion with Dr. Watson, KASB’s Mark Tallman, associate executive director for advocacy, reviewed the still-unfinished 2015 Legislative Session. Tallman noted that while fewer bills have passed this session, many that have passed have significant implications for education, including:

- Abolishing the 22-year-old school finance formula and replaced it with a two-year block grant.
- Changing the regulations for KPERS-covered staff working after retirement.
- Putting into law seclusion and restraint regulations.
- Changing local elections from the spring to fall of odd-numbered years.
- Changing the teacher negotiations process.

The two groups toured renovations completed on the third floor at KASB. The association’s Insurance and KJUMP departments recently relocated to the third floor. Work will now begin on renovations to the first floor in preparation for USA Kansas’ move into that space in July.

Approval of the budget and other governance-related topics rounded out the KASB Board of Director’s meeting for the rest of the day. Action items included:

- Approval of new Workers Compensation Trustees: Mike Bultena, Sublette USD 374, Denis Titus, Galena USD 499.
- Approval of the 2015-16 KASB Budget and salaries as presented.
- Approval of the KASB and Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. Administrative Contract for 2015-16.
- Approval of a new Prestigious Partner: P1 Group, Inc.

Dr. John Heim, KASB executive director, reported on staff progress on strategic initiatives in three areas identified last summer by the board. This included serving as a “truth machine” and a voice for public education; expanding KASB’s role as leaders for student success; and focusing on the association’s culture of service by improving and expanding our service to members. Dr. Heim also reviewed some of the internal supports that contribute to successes in all three areas. These included rebranding and the new logo, new methods for engaging members, facility improvements and renovations to make better use of office space, leasing office space to both USA Kansas and the Sunflower Foundation and improved internal budget controls.

The board received reports on the following:

- NSBA: 2015 Summer Institute and 2015 Leadership Seminar, Western Region Meeting, President’s Retreat
- 2014-15 KASB final projections
- KASB 2015 Fall Summits
- KASB New Board Member Workshops
- KLC meeting, June 15-17, in Wichita

The board recessed Saturday afternoon for the annual Passing of the Gavel Ceremony, followed that evening by the annual Employee Recognition Dinner.

**KASB Legislative Committee begins work**

The KASB Legislative Committee held its first meeting on June 6, following a presentation from incoming Commissioner Randy Watson on a new vision for Kansas public education.

The committee discussed how the school accreditation and accountability system will have to change to reflect a broader definition of student success, and what financial and program supports are necessary to promote that success.

The committee also discussed the need to involve school leaders, legislators and policy-makers in a discussion of school finance from the perspective of the entire state, not just individual districts or regions. Unless the courts intervene, the school finance system used since 1993 will expire June 30 and school districts will have current year budgets mostly frozen in place for two years under block grants while a new finance system is developed.

The committee will meet on August 29 to draft preliminary policy proposals to share with KASB membership. Recommendations will be finalized by the committee on November 7 for final debate and approval by the KASB Delegate Assembly on December 6.
Leaders learn about change theory, bond construction management during first KASB Leadership for Tomorrow class

Leadership for Tomorrow’s first of five sessions for the new class took place May 28 and 29 with visits to Salina and Abilene. The 24 member class gathered in the new Salina West Education Center that houses Salina USD 305’s alternative and diploma completion program.

Following introductions and an overview, the class heard from Bill Hall, Salina USD 305 superintendent (LFT Class of 08-09), and Kris Upson, bond project director for the district’s 2014 $110 million bond issue. Upson discussed the processes in place to both manage construction and keep staff and the community involved and informed. Hall and Lynda Buehre, Salina’s technology project leader, reviewed new safety protocols for the district and demonstrated the building’s state-of-the-art security system. The system is scheduled to be installed in buildings as part of Salina’s bond project.

One of the goals of KASB’s LFT program is to help participants learn more about the similarities and differences between districts across Kansas. Working in groups of three or four, the class participated in a data discovery activity and shared information about their own districts. The day ended with a homework assignment and a class dinner.

The group headed to Abilene USD 435 for Day 2. Each group developed and presented a team report on their assigned reading from the day before on change theory. Following additional instruction on change management, the remaining balance of the time was devoted to learning about Abilene’s strategic planning and bond election process.

Dr. Denise Guy, superintendent (LFT Class of 14-15) and Chris Cooper, assistant superintendent, talked about community input and support and managing the changes brought about by the construction and renovation projects. A school bus ride gave the group the chance to view various construction projects underway.

The class’ next meeting is scheduled for July 16-17, hosted by the Kansas City USD 500.

KASB’s Leadership for Tomorrow program is in its eleventh year. Participants are chosen through an application process and include board of education members and administrators. Through five two-day sessions, the class explores a broad spectrum of issues and concerns relating to public education and student achievement.
Employees recognized for service to KASB

KASB honored seven employees June 6 at the annual Employee Recognition Dinner for various milestones reached with the organization. The honorees include Pam Crossland, Debbie Dyche, John Heim, Tom Krebs, David Shriver, Mark Tallman and Donna Whiteman.

At 25 years, Mark Tallman, KASB associate executive director for advocacy, is currently one of the longest-serving KASB staff members. He joined KASB in 1990 as the first full-time governmental relations staff member, a position now held by Tom Krebs- who is celebrating 15 years with the organization.

Also celebrating a milestone this year of 20 years is KASB assistant executive director of legal services, Donna Whiteman. Donna was thrilled to join the organization in April 1995, as this was the job she most wanted upon finishing law school.

Celebrating 10 years with the association are Pam Crossland, Debbie Dyche and David Shriver.

Pam serves as KASB’s senior claims adjusted in the Worker’s Compensation department.

Debbie has held many titles during her 10 years with the organization, but she currently serves as the assistant for the governmental relations and research departments.

KASB tenue lawsuit . . .

Essentially, the district court found that HB 2506 was an education bill with appropriations provisions, not an appropriations bill with education provisions. While it might seem that is a dubious distinction, it is a critical one when examining whether legislation violates the one subject rule.

KASB had not sought the due process changes in HB 2506, and was not part of the lawsuit. However, KASB does support allowing the local board of education to serve as the “fact-finder” in deciding if a teacher should be nonrenewed, with the teacher having the right of appeal to the courts.

The court in the new decision on the one-subject rule distinguished the current case from the facts in State ex rel. Stephan v. Carlin where the Kansas Supreme Court found legislation to be in violation of the one subject rule. The district court explained that Carlin “mandates that non-appropriations-related provisions must be excised, as unconstitutional, from appropriations bills, but held HB 2506 was not an appropriations bill. Therefore, the Carlin case does not apply and HB 2506 does not violate the one subject rule.

The court went on to state that “[t]he Carlin case does not stand for the proposition that an appropriations provision -- or even a series of interrelated appropriation provisions, as was the situation here -- cannot ever coincide with non-appropriations provisions, even when logically and reasonably related to one another.” The district court found the provisions of HB 2506 were germane to the subject of education because the appropriation portions were ordered by the Kansas Supreme Court in Gannon, and so “it cannot be said that these funding provisions ‘cannot reasonably be considered as having any legitimate connection with or relationship to each other.’” [citations omitted.]

It is important to remember this decision can be appealed to the appellate courts, which means this matter is far from settled. Districts should also be prepared for potential lawsuits being brought by individual teachers now that the first non-renewals under the new law have taken place. Boards should anticipate due process continuing to be a hot-button issue during negotiations in the coming year. Please contact the KASB legal staff if you have any questions relating to negotiations or due process.
KASB issues Call for Presentations
Applications to present are being sought for Breakout Sessions on Saturday, December 5, in Wichita, Kansas.

KASB needs your expertise and experience to create exceptional learning experiences throughout the conference. To this end, we are seeking clinic session presentation proposals from school districts, school board members, thought leaders and like-minded organizations.

KASB is proud to provide the highest quality educational leadership for boards of education in Kansas. The Annual Conference is the association’s flagship event—an intensive learning and networking experience bringing together hundreds of board of education members, school district leaders and content experts. The goal is to inform and equip school board members so they may govern and lead their districts effectively.

Presenting at KASB’s Annual Conference is the ideal way to share best practices, disseminate effective strategies and deepen understanding regarding emerging issues in education.

Submit your ideas at www.kasb.org/CFP.
If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Hartzell at ahartzell@kasb.org or 800.432.2471.

Unlimited Access to 20 Trainings & Seminars in 2015-16!
Close to one-third of our members used at least seven - and many used more - “seats” at seminars and workshops last year. We often hear our members would send more people, but cost is a factor. The all-new KASB Season Pass is a great solution!

Typical registration for a full day seminar is $150. A one-time purchase of $1,200 gives your district or member organization unlimited access to 20 trainings!

No need to worry about it for the rest of the fiscal year.
No more individual registration charges.
No limitations on how many can participate.

Contact KASB for details
800.432.2471

June 2015 policy updates available from KASB
Happy summer, everyone! The June 2015 Policy Updates are now available. KASB posts policy update packets on the Members Only portion of our website each June, December, and as necessary after revisions are made to the association’s policy recommendations.

The recommendations have been edited and revised by the KASB Legal/Policy Services staff. There are two versions of the policy available online: one with copies of each policy showing the redline edits using Track Changes in Word and one with copies of the policies with all edits incorporated.

The purpose of these revisions is to fill in gaps where districts desire more comprehensive policy language, to eliminate redundancy, to make the language more up-to-date and legally accurate, and to make the policies easier to administer.

The contents of this policy packet should be reviewed by the superintendent, the clerk, and the board, and it may not hurt to run it by your other district administrators, staff, and student body representatives if your policy requires staff and student input. If any of the new policy recommendations meet district needs, they are ready to add to the policy book after board approval.

We hope these policy recommendations will be helpful for you. If you have comments, questions, or concerns about them, or if you have additional policy questions, call 1-800-432-2471 and ask to speak to Angie Stallbaumer; email astallbaumer@kasb.org; or contact another member of the KASB Legal/Policy Services staff.
Over the past year, KASB has been working to improve the way we provide data back to our members. We collect a lot of information from you throughout the year, and we want to ensure we provide it back to you in ways that are useable and useful. Here’s a brief overview of where you can go to find KASB’s data and what you can do with it.

All of the data KASB collects and reports out is available on a single page, with the exception of the administrator salary data (which is kept in the Members’ Only section of the website). Data is made available in two formats; in an interactive online tool, or in a downloadable Excel file. Find it all at www.kasb.org/data.

Tableau
KASB is using software called Tableau to provide data online in interactive visualization tools that can be customized and modified for your needs. Click on any of the “New Tab” buttons to be taken to a new browser tab where you can interact with the corresponding data set. To capture a chart, graph, or table, you can select “PDF” from the download menu (located at the bottom right of the tool) and generate a printable PDF.

Excel
Similar to past years, KASB is providing data in Excel files that can be downloaded and used. However, multiple years are being included in each file now to allow comparisons across districts and also across time. Click on any of the “download” buttons to download the file corresponding to the data you need. Then use the dropdown filters in the files to narrow down to only the information you are interested in.

Assistance and feedback
Because this represents a significant departure from how KASB has provided data to you in the past, we are ready and anxious to assist you in learning how to use the new tools, and also to get your feedback on what you like and what can be improved. Please contact Debbie or Ted at KASB by calling the main number or emailing research@kasb.org with your questions or feedback.
As budgets become tighter, KASB helps you make good “CENT$” when purchasing insurance and natural gas!

785.273.3600
Toll Free: 800.432.2471     Fax: 785.273.7580

David Shriver
Assistant Executive Director/Insurance
Liz Maisberger-Clark
Workers Comp Fund Administrator

“Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success”

isn’t just our motto, it’s our purpose!

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We understand public education and we’re hear to support you!

Being a member of KASB gives you access to what you need when you need it.

If you have questions or want to learn more about these services, please call

800.432.2471