

# KANSAS BUDGET 101

## Part IV: Education Spending



The Kansas Constitution requires the Legislature to "suitably provide" financing for education. Kansas spends almost half of the state budget on education. This money supports local education across all 286 school districts – the majority of spending – as well as higher education in public universities, community and technical colleges and other adult education. This money provides for K-12 classroom spending, student scholarships, state library and historical services and other education functions.

This infographic details how education is budgeted.

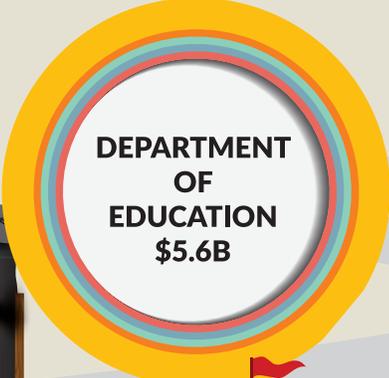
The Kansas Health Institute and the Kansas Health Foundation produced this primer on the Kansas budget. A series of five infographics were created to tell the story:

- I – Cash Flow
- II – Revenues
- III – Expenditures
- IV – Education Spending**
- V – Health and Human Services Spending

Available at [khi.org](http://khi.org) and [kansashealth.org](http://kansashealth.org)



**Education \$8.6B**  
46.9% of FY 2020  
All Funds Budget (\$18.4B)



Kansas spends approximately \$133M annually on K-12 regular-route transportation (approximately \$610 per pupil).

Nearly all Department of Education appropriations are provided to Kansas' 286 local school districts.



Most (91%) money appropriated to Regents is provided to universities. Regents also funds technical and community colleges.



Of the money appropriated for school finance, more than \$4 billion came from the State General Fund. Base State Aid for Student Excellence (BASE) will increase from \$4,165 per pupil in FY 2019 to \$4,436 per pupil in FY 2020, with a gradual increase to \$4,846 per pupil in FY 2023.



\$1.2B	<b>University of Kansas</b>	<b>43.2%</b>
\$827M	<b>Kansas State University</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
\$371M	<b>Wichita State University</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
\$141M	<b>Fort Hays State University</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
\$111M	<b>Pittsburg State University</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
\$100M	<b>Emporia State University</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
\$12M	<b>Washburn University</b>	<b>0.4%</b>





### Budgeting Basics

The Education state function receives the highest share of all state appropriations — almost half of all state money — and more than half of State General Fund (SGF) dollars. Primary agencies within Education include the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), the Board of Regents, the State Library of Kansas and the Kansas Historical Society.

KSDE receives the largest share of the Education appropriation (almost two-thirds) and spends it on K-12 education within 286 school districts. A complicated K-12 finance formula splits this money across Kansas according to factors such as district enrollment, special education and disability and other local factors. The money supports the education of public school students and include costs both within the classroom and for general school operations.

The Board of Regents receives the majority of the remaining third of the Education appropriation and spends it on public universities, community colleges and for other postsecondary education. This money is important to improve access to higher education opportunities in Kansas.

### Policy Spotlights

#### Public School Financing

Financing Kansas' primary and secondary education systems is one of the state's most important obligations. The issues below are at the forefront of financing.

#### General State Aid and Supplemental Aid

State Foundation Aid, also known as General State Aid or “base” aid, is the funding available to each school district according to the K-12 finance formula. Approximately \$3.1B (55.4 percent) of K-12 money is budgeted for base aid. Supplemental General State Aid, also known as Local Option Budget (LOBs) aid, provides supplemental money according to need. Approximately \$503M (9 percent) of K-12 funds are budgeted for supplemental aid.

#### K-12 Operations

Approximately 61 percent of all school operating expenses go to instruction while 20 percent are provided for support services, 10 percent to operations and maintenance, 5 percent to food services and 4 percent to transportation.

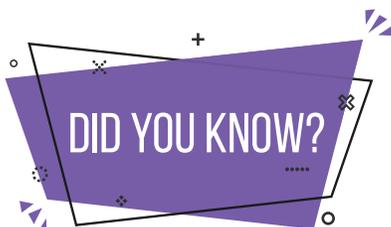
### Glossary

**Local Option Budget (LOB):** Supplemental local tax dollars and state “equalization” aid for school districts.

### Constitution and Law

**Kansas Constitution Article 6, Section 6** makes the Kansas Legislature responsible for financing both K-12 and higher education across Kansas.

**K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq** is referred to as the “Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act” which requires the Kansas Legislature to prioritize K-12 education, provide finances to school districts across the state, and establish a financing system and requirements for spending state money. K.S.A. 72-5143 et seq. and 72-5194 set forth rules for financing local option budgets with local and state aid.



- For the first time in over a decade, Kansas has a K-12 finance formula that the Kansas Supreme Court has determined is constitutional in both adequacy and equity for school districts across the state.
- Though originally “optional” for school districts, local option budgets are now critical means of financing local education and have been at the center of school finance debates.