

Greetings,

I am reaching as an advocate for increasing special education funding to the mandatory rate of 92% excess cost. I am the President of the SEK Interlocal in Southeast Kansas. 97% of the Interlocal annual budget supports human capital (staff). To cover excess costs for increased needs, Interlocal relies on assessment from the local school districts to make up the additional expense needed to serve students. I have served on the Interlocal School Board for over 8 year, 4 years as president. I have personally witnessed the increased severity of disabilities, increased number of students needing services and violent behaviors that must be handled to support all students right to a quality education.

I cordially invite the committee colleagues or any other Kansas Legislator to come tour districts and see the impact the Interlocal is having, changing lives everyday.

I ask for your support for increasing special education funding to 92% as mandated. The state has over \$2 Billion dollars in excess funds, it's time to move forward with adequate funding that will help support all students' education.

Thank you for your commitment to serve the State of Kansas.

Sincerely

Kevin Cole