

It has become abundantly clear that the state has not met its obligations to fund special education. Over \$8 million has been moved from the general fund for many years in Lawrence for special education and has directly influenced the pay of our teachers, the closing of two schools last year and funding for increases in costs to insurance and utility bills.

As a parent of general education students, this lack of special education funding has taken away funds for the general population and their learning environments; increasing class sizes, consolidating grade level courses which negatively impacts student and educator stress and teacher to pupil ratio relationship building-all linked to retention of material and student outcomes.

I implore the representatives of the state of Kansas to fully fund special education to its requirements without adding multiple layers of education blocks for families to enroll and benefit from public education.

One solution I would propose, however, that links funding, would be to legalize medical and or recreational marijuana in the state of Kansas.

Here is an article outlining how some of marijuana's tax revenue has been used to fund education in Colorado.

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/2021marijuanarevenue#:~:text=In%202012%2C%20Colorado%20voters%20approved,tax%20revenue%20going%20to%20education.>

The legislature has the authority to set aside this type of tax revenue for special education even though in Colorado, they used it for other educational purposes.

Not only is the state of Kansas missing out on millions of dollars of revenue by not tapping into this disputed market, but this could be a potential avenue to aid in fully funding special education per the states requirements, along with other social services and programs.

If the state decides it does not want to legalize medical or recreational marijuana, and use a portion of its revenues to fund special education then the state must find another way to do so. It is hurting everyone not just special education students; from my point of view it is hurting general education students and educators at the expense of a few. This has got to stop. Fully fund special education as decreed by former outcomes, or the state of Kansas may potentially face lawsuits that may arise from the negligence to do so.

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