

Dear Matthew, I am a former special education teacher imploring you today to do everything that you can to make sure that special education gets fully funded this year. As a teacher, I experienced the things that happen when the funding isn't there. Things such as the ability to hire and retain qualified paraeducators being limited, money being taken from general education funding to go into mandated special education programs, lack of training for all staff and a high turnover in qualified staff who are frustrated by the lack of support. When special education isn't fully funded it impacts all students. Please do the right thing for all students in Kansas and make sure that special education gets fully funded this year and into the future. Sincerely, Sandy Smith