

To the Special Education Task Force Committee:

Here at Bucklin Schools we appreciate the legislature's ongoing commitment to fund Public Education and support our students and we thank you for that. With full Special Education funding, we will be able to ensure that our General Education fund dollars are available for the people and programs that our community expects and deserves. Full funding is essential to our work to support and inspire learning for every Bucklin student, every day.

For FY 2023, Bucklin transferred \$75, 646.77 from our General Fund to Special Education. Bucklin is part of the USD 613 Special Education Interlocal. Our state aid pass through is \$177, 888.00.

Due to the amount of money transferred from our General Fund we were not able to add money to our salary schedule for certified staff or to the hourly wage scale for our classified staff. We are currently at a base salary of of \$42,038.69 with a 5 day school week. Many other districts in our area are at \$42,000 or higher and operate on a 4 day week so recruiting qualified staff has become difficult. We currently employ three long term substitutes to help fill our staffing needs.

Our Intervention program has suffered due to the amount of money needed from the General Fund for Special Education. We are unable to hire more interventionist teachers and or intervention paraprofessionals due to the limited budget we have available.

We do not keep cash balances in our Special Education fund. As of Nov. 30th, our Special Education fund was -\$52000.00 as we paid our assessments to the USD 613 Special Education Interlocal.

Fully funding Special Education is good for all Kansas students. A dedicated Special Education budget funded by the state and federal government would allow us to increase and improve programs that benefit all students in Bucklin Schools.

Thank you,
Sandy Halling
USD 459 BOE Vice President