



# KPI Fact Sheet

## *The Truth about School Spending*

- As of December 16, 2009 the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE) says total aid to schools for the 2009-10 year to be \$5.553 billion, just 2% less than the previous year.
- KSDE says total per-pupil aid will average \$12,225 per pupil, or just 3.43% less than the \$12,660 that was spent last year.
- Districts began the current year with about \$700 million in unencumbered carryover cash balances in funds other than those set aside for capital projects and bond payments, and those balances increased 53% over the last four years. Schools therefore didn't spend all of the money they received and could have operated on less revenue.
- Total spending jumped 27% between 2005 and 2008, from \$4.27 billion to \$5.42 billion.
- Despite that \$1.15 billion increase, the percentage of total budget allocated to instructional costs only changed from 53.6% to 54.7% (not allocating capital projects to operating costs). The majority of students, and a larger share than in FY 2005, is in districts that spend less than 55% of total budget on instructional costs.
- Per-Pupil expenditures for the 2008 school year ranged from \$9,017 to \$25,240 across the State of Kansas. If the high-spending districts had just been at the median cost-per-pupil of similar-sized districts, districts would have spent \$636 million less.
- A July 2009 Legislative Post Audit report listed 80 recommendations for reducing school costs without impacting outcomes.
- Some districts have been able to achieve high scores on state-assessed tests while spending considerably less per-pupil compared to similar-sized districts. The high-to-low range varies by as much as 92%.

***A Kansas Primer on Education Funding, "Volume 3: Analysis of K-12 Spending in Kansas"***