



KPI Fact Sheet

Educational Research and Kansas District Data Disputes Contention that Higher Spending = Higher Achievement

- The only justification offered by the Kansas Department of Education for their belief that higher spending causes achievement scores to increase is that a January 2006 Legislative Post Audit report found a relationship between spending and outcomes, but LPA did not (and will not) say that higher spending *caused* test scores to rise.
- That same LPA study said the educational research on whether spending is actually related to performance is mixed.
- Some people use that same LPA study to justify higher school spending, even though it specifically says it wasn't "...intended to dictate any specific funding level, and shouldn't be viewed that way." In fact, LPA goes on to say that their study wasn't "...directed to, nor did we try to, examine the most cost-effective way for Kansas school districts to be organized and operated."
- Dr. Florence Neymotin published a study in 2008 that says "recent changes to school funding in Kansas reveal little evidence of improving student outcomes as measured by test scores."
- Many Kansas districts have achieved high scores on state-assessed tests with below average levels of per-pupil spending.

See "Volume III: Analysis of K-12 Spending in Kansas" of *A Kansas Primer on Education Funding* for documentation and additional information at <http://kansaspolicy.org/Library/PolicyAnalysis/>.