



NEWS

R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KCKPS to Begin New School Year with \$8.7 Million in Cuts

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) will begin the 2011-2012 school year with an overall budget reduction of \$8.7 million. This brings budget reductions over a five-year period to a total of \$43.3 million. In light of the recent reductions, district administrators have been further trimming an already lean budget while working to ensure that students don't feel the impact.

"Our mission is the same regardless of our budget constraints, and that is to provide the best education possible for our students, and to prepare them for successful futures," said Dr. Cynthia Lane, superintendent of schools.

To make up for the lost funding, the district has:

- Closed the Fairfax Campus School (alternative school)
- Eliminated several administrative positions
- Reduced all Central Office department budgets by 33 percent (over the past 5 years)
- Eliminated the district's Driver's Education Program
- Reduced travel, supplies and equipment
- Eliminated overtime for employees

In addition, the Board of Education voted to allocate \$2 million from the district's Contingency Fund to help make up the deficit. And for the second consecutive year, the district will not be adding money to its workers' compensation budget.

A new law signed by Governor Brownback gives school districts the authority to use some of their carryover cash balances to supplement state aid next school year. However, Dr. Kelli Mather, chief financial officer, explained that this money is needed to get the district through the first few months of the fiscal year, until state funding arrives, to cover the original purposes for which it was allocated, and to cover bond and interest payments.

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Kansas State Department of Education Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis has reported that according to Governor Brownback schools can expect at least three more years of decreases to K-12 budgets.

As has become the norm in school districts across the country, all KCKPS staff are being asked to take on additional and expanded responsibilities to meet the needs of students this school year.

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