

North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative

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Interlocal #636

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Member Districts

USD 110 Thunder Ridge, USD 211 Norton, USD 212 Northern Valley, USD 213 Lenora, USD 237 Smith Center, USD 269 Palco, USD 270 Plainville, USD 271 Stockton, USD 324 Eastern Heights, USD 325 Phillipsburg, USD 326 Logan, USD 392 Osborne, USD 399 Natoma

Friday, March 6th, 2009

TO: Interlocal 636 Staff

I am sure you too have been listening to the school finance news coming from Topeka. I want to try to get some information out to you. The difficulty is getting accurate and timely information due to the continual changes coming from Topeka. What we do know at this time is that we will receive cuts in this fiscal year. The governor vetoed deep budget reductions for K-12 education and softened the blow this year. However, the reduction in special education funding totaled 4.5 million for the state and totals approximately \$44,000 for the NCKSEC for this fiscal year.

As the talk in Topeka switches to the 2009-2010 budgets the news is ever changing. Initial rumors ranged in cuts in funding for K-12 education anywhere from 5% to as high as 18%. Last week Governor Sibelius sent her proposed budget to the legislature. Her budget proposed using federal stimulus money to supplement funding for special education. The governor's proposal for next year would fund special education at the same dollar amount as this year, following the cuts to this year's budget. Now we wait to see what the legislature does with the governor's proposal.

Aside from the doom and gloom of the budget, the primary focus of every decision we make is the impact it will have on students with disabilities. It is my belief that the need of students is not likely to change as a result of our funding crisis. I also believe that the most important resource that we have to offer is our people. To that end and based on what we know, I have no plans for reduction in staff at this time. I will do my best to keep you informed of things as they continue to develop in Topeka.

Thank you for all of the work you do and for the difference you make in the lives of students and families of students with disabilities throughout the NCKSEC.

Chris