



**Markley Strategies LLC**  
**Legislative Update**

Blue Valley School Board  
March 9, 2026

# 2026 Legislative Priority Positions

**Establish Fair and Equitable School Finance Formula**

**Fund Special Education as Statutorily Required**

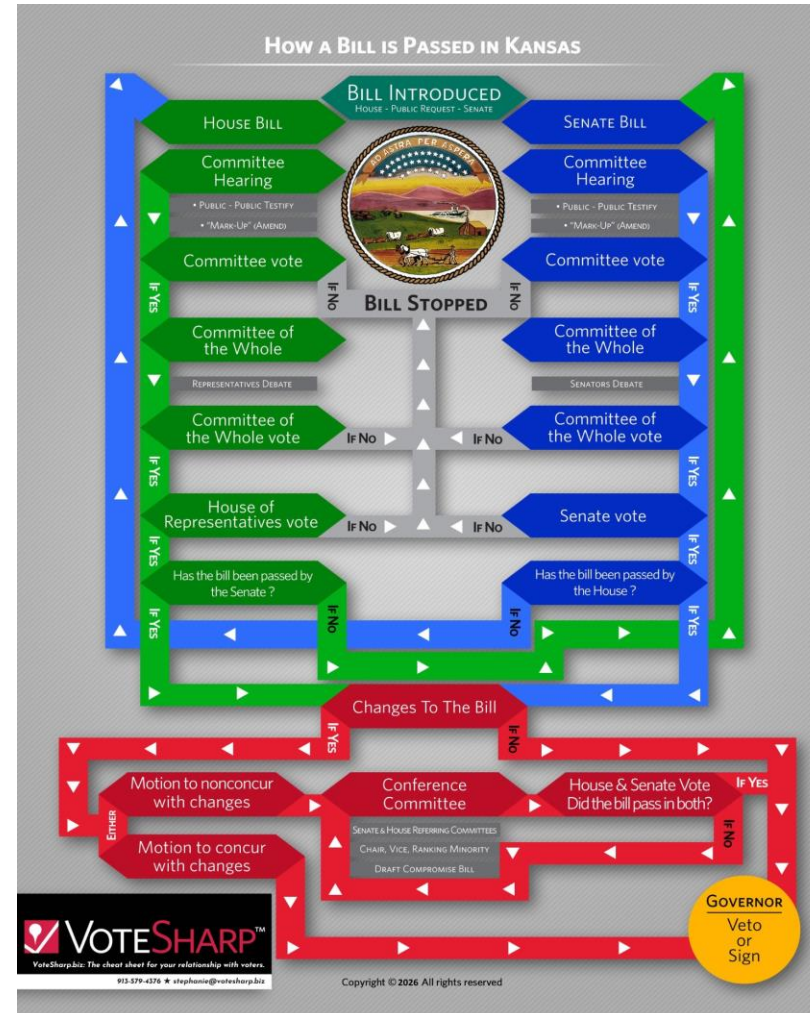
**Increase Safety and Well-Being in Schools**

**Support Recruitment and Retention of Highly Qualified Staff**

**Oppose Tax Credits, Vouchers, and Other Public Funding for Private Schools**

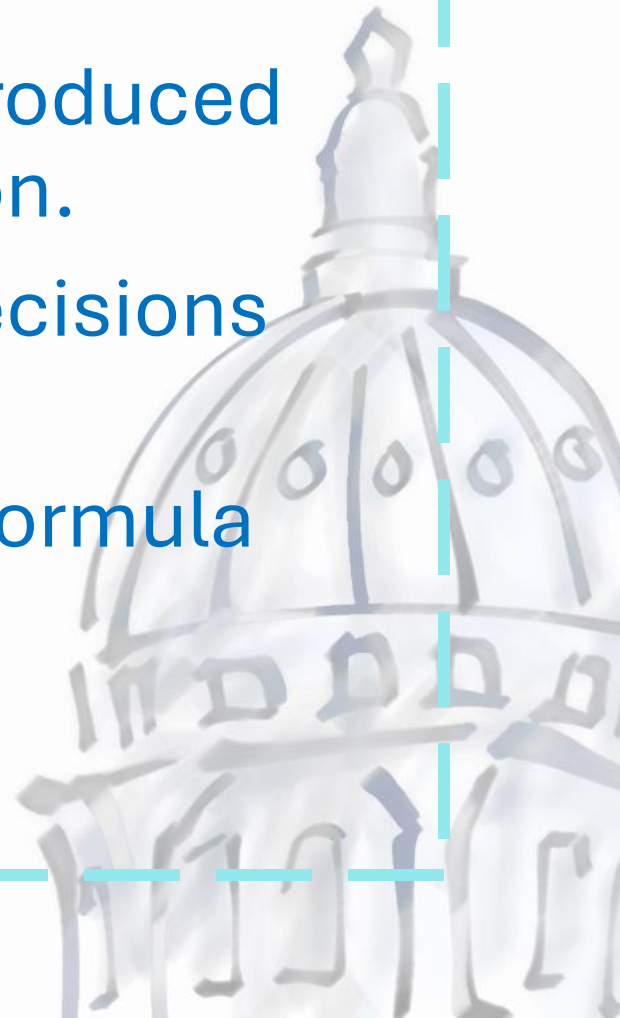
**Support Local Control of Educational Systems**

# How a Bill Becomes a Law in Kansas Legislature



# 2026 Session Legislative Overview

- Over 100 education related bills have been introduced this year. Most will die at the end of this session.
- Funding and Policy: the two ways legislative decisions affect our public schools.
- Funding: The Budget and the School Finance Formula
- Policy: Legislature passes statewide rules and requirements for K-12 students.



# 2026 Session Legislative Overview: Funding

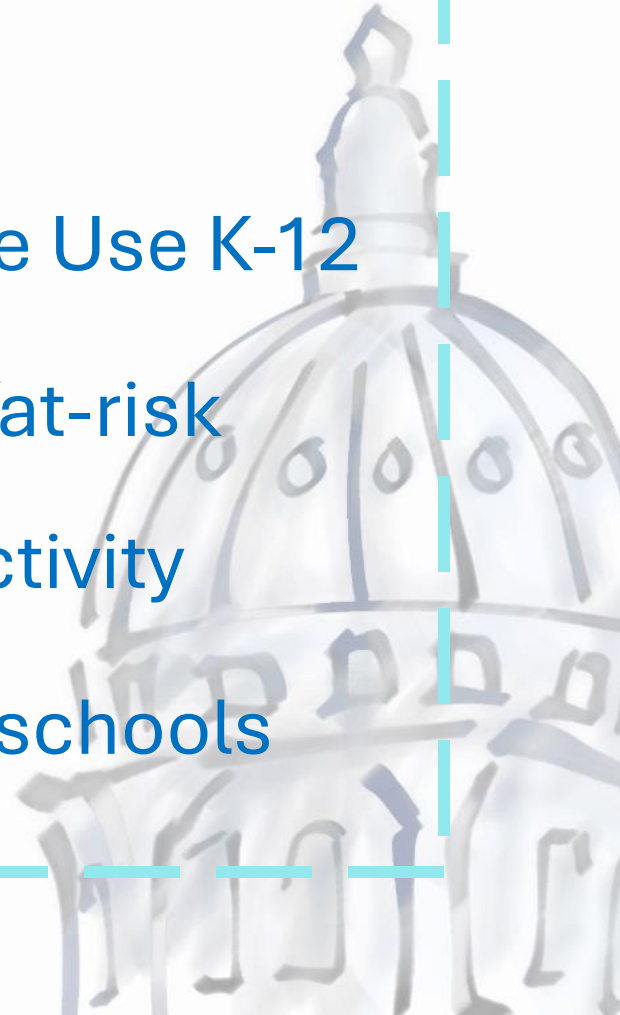
- State funding in Kansas follows a 2-year cycle
- Introduction of Governor's Budget and Legislature's Budget
- Where we are today
  - House and Senate Passed Budgets: HB 2434 and SB 315
  - Various Tax Bills
- What's Left to Do
  - Conference Committee
  - Conference Committee Reports
  - Governor's Signature and line-item vetoes
  - Possible legislative override of line-item vetoes



# 2026 Session Legislative Overview: Policy

- Policy Legislation

- H Sub SB 281/HB 2299: Restricting Cell Phone Use K-12
- HB 2468: Expanding Tax Credit Program
- SB 387: Income Verification: lunch programs/at-risk funding
- SB 339: Required daily recess and physical activity
- SB 350: Age Appropriate School Device Act
- SB 441: Allow applied behavior specialists in schools



# SPED Funding

- Current Budget Proposals: \$10M (House) and \$5M (Senate)
- Funding Needed to Address Statewide SPED Shortfall: \$180M
- State of Kansas has been underfunding SPED for over 15 years.
- What This Means for Our District
  - Blue Valley recoups only 57% of excess costs.
  - We must divert approximately \$18M from our general fund ANNUALLY
  - Since 2020, there has been a 14% growth in IEP plans, while total enrollment has decreased by 3.5%.
  - We are legally required to provide these services.



# Where We Are Headed: Final Weeks and 2026 Elections

- One More Full Week of Committee Hearings
- Floor Debate and Conference Committee Meetings/Reports
- Approved Legislation sent to Governor
- First Adjournment: March 27
- Veto Session: April 9-10
- Elections: All 125 Representatives, Governor, Statewide Offices



# What Can You Do?

- Contact Your Legislator
- Follow Along: [www.kslegislature.gov](http://www.kslegislature.gov)
- Vote: [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org)



# Questions? Contact Me

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