

NEWS RELEASE

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Education Funding Already on a Growth Spurt

It's time to bring competition to bear on education

(WICHITA) – Have Kansas lawmakers and the public at large been stingy with funding K-12 education? That may be the impression you get by reading newspaper editorials or listening to advocacy groups. But a new report from the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy suggests that education has been well funded during the last decade.

“Education is clearly a priority for both the public and for lawmakers. That’s the way it should be,” says John R. LaPlante, an education policy fellow of The Flint Hills Center. “It is important, then, that we understand how much money is actually being spent on education, rather than assume that it’s too little.”

According to the new report, total public support for schools increased 56 percent from the 1993-94 school year to the 2003-2004 year while student enrollment increased only a bit over 1 percent. Per-pupil spending is now close to \$10,000 per year. Even after adjusting for inflation and enrollment growth, per-pupil funding is up 22 percent since 1993.

Drawing on information compiled by the Kansas Legislative Research Department, a new report issued by Flint Hills, “[Facts About Education Funding in Kansas](#)”, is available at www.flinthills.org.

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