

NEWS RELEASE

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Funds for Blue Valley Grow Faster Than Enrollment *Enrollment up 56 percent since 1993, Funding up 137 percent*

(WICHITA) – School funding has been the topic of political conversation around Kansas this legislative session. But before they make any drastic changes in spending formulas or amounts, lawmakers should step back and appreciate how much financial support the public has already given to schools.

A new policy brief from the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy examines taxpayer support for Blue Valley Public Schools (USD 229) since 1993, and finds that while enrollment in the district is up, funding is up even more. Attached is the policy brief for your review.

“Student enrollment has gone up by over half since 1993,” says John R. LaPlante, education policy fellow of the Wichita-based think tank. “While that might justify increasing the total budget somewhat, total funding has more than doubled, up 137 percent. Even when you account for the cost of having more students to teach, USD 229 is receiving 52 percent more funding for each student, compared with 1993.”

For the 2003-2004 school year, per-pupil spending was \$10,275.

We all want the best possible education for Kansas children; however, the current system is not taking us there. Let’s not blame the legislators, then, if they are reluctant to escalate spending levels even more. It’s time that the public, and students themselves, receive the benefits of fostering increased competition through family choice.

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