

NEWS RELEASE

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Funds for Shawnee Mission Schools Up; Enrollment Down Since 1993 *Enrollment down 8 percent, Funding up 28 percent*

(WICHITA) – School funding has been the topic of political conversation around Kansas this legislative session. While we have not yet seen the final resolution of the funding debate, policy makers and the public 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 Shawnee Mission Public Schools (USD 512) since 1993, and finds that while enrollment in the district is down, funding is up. Read more about [this policy brief](#) at www.flinthills.org.

“Student enrollment in USD 512 has declined 7.6 percent since 1993,” says John R. LaPlante, education policy fellow of the Wichita-based think tank. “Even as the district has had fewer students to teach, its total support has actually increased 28 percent. Per-pupil funding is up even more, at 38 percent.”

For the 2003-2004 school year, per-pupil spending was \$8,176.

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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The Flint Hills Center for Public Policy is an independent voice for sound public policy in Kansas. As a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank, the Center provides critical information about policy options to legislators and citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at www.flinthills.org or contact us at inquiries@flinthills.org or (316) 634-0218.

