

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 26, 2008

Contact: [Sarah McIntosh](#)
(316) 634-0218

Is More Money the Solution for Wichita Public Schools?

Report suggests that another bond issue may not be the answer to education challenges

(WICHITA) – Should Wichita taxpayers be asked to foot another bill for USD 259? Or are there other alternatives for providing Kansas children with educational opportunities?

In January, the Wichita Board of Education suggested a need for a \$350 million bond for Wichita public schools. While the Board has not announced whether or not to hold a vote this Fall, it is an important issue for Wichita taxpayers to contemplate.

While other districts have passed bond issues based on enrollment influx concerns, USD 259 has had a stagnant enrollment level over the years. “Since the 1999-2000 school year (when the last bond issue was passed) enrollment has only increased 1.4 percent,” says John LaPlante, Education Policy Fellow at the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy.

A new report published by the Center this week, “[USD 259: Is Another Bond Proposal the Best Idea?](#)” looks at the increase in USD 259 funding since 1990 along with student achievement in that same time period. “Unfortunately,” says Sarah McIntosh, Vice President of Programs with the Center, “USD 259 has a drop out rate of 40% and 48% of students cannot read at their grade level. This is at the same time that per-pupil spending has increased by nearly 150%.”

The study suggests that concerned citizens should push for transparency and accountability in the school system while encouraging the state to embrace more educational options. “Other states such as Arizona and New York City have seen charter schools and the use of vouchers as positive means to improve the education of students in their states. We all want to see Kansas children excel and we need to be open to finding the best means to encourage that,” says McIntosh.

To read the full report by the Center, visit www.flinthills.org.

#

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 (316) 634-0218 or information@flinthills.org.

We hope you enjoy receiving news releases from the Flint Hills Center, but if you would like to unsubscribe from our emails, please reply or send an email to information@flinthills.org with “Remove” in the subject line.



250 N. Water, Suite #216 Wichita, Kansas 67202-1215 (316) 634-0218
information@flinthills.org www.flinthills.org
