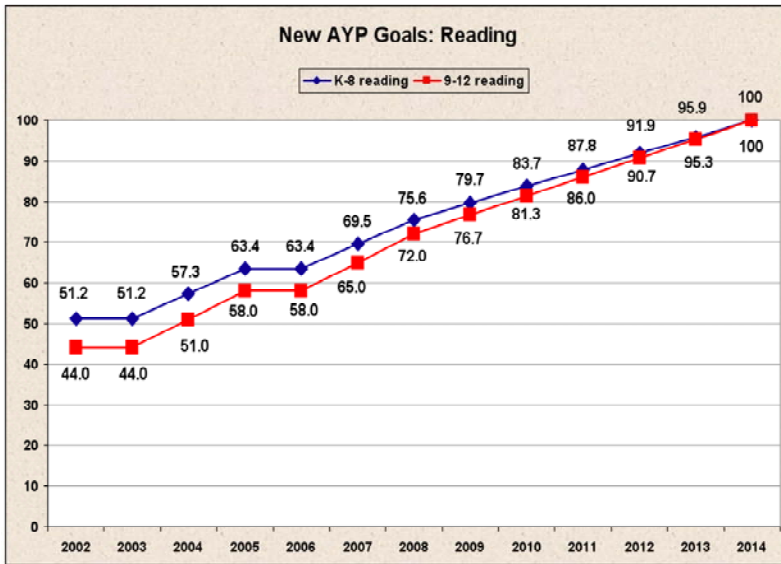


Fact Sheet for the Financial Impact on USD 309

Many of you have been hearing and reading about the difficulties the State of Kansas has been having financially. Perhaps you have also been wondering what effects this may be having on USD 309, and more specifically your child's school. The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to give you a brief but incomplete overview of some of the implications for USD 309 and your child's educational opportunities.

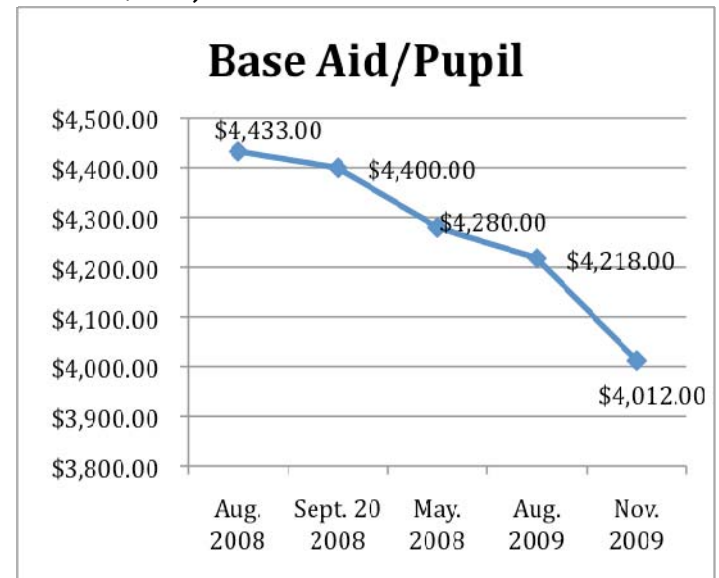
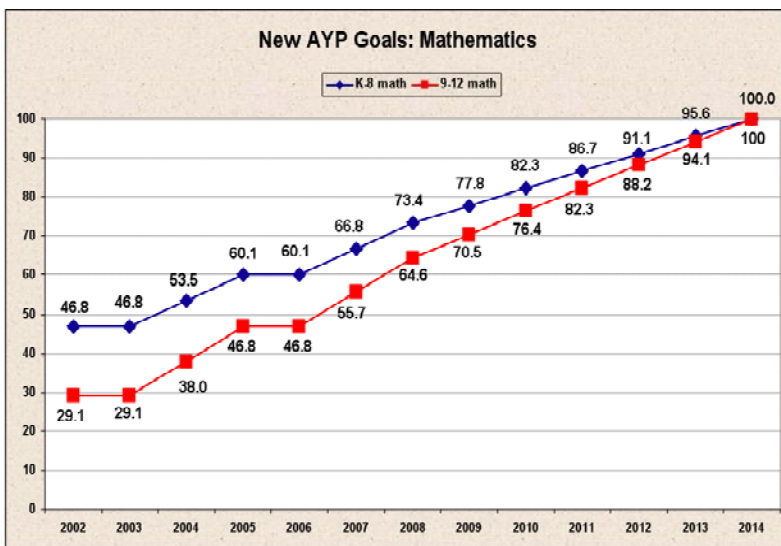
Did You Know?

1. Performance Expectations for each school and the district to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) increases each year. The requirement is to have all students able to meet the standard in Reading and



Math by the year 2014. There is no question this is the right thing to do and a goal to strive to meet. See the graphs on the left. To date all of our schools and our district have made AYP.

2. The Base Student Aid per Pupil has declined \$380/student from one year ago until now. This means that USD 309 has lost over **\$400,000** in revenue to support the education of our children. See the graph below. However all told since August 2008, until today, our district has lost a total of **\$814,000** in state aid in all areas.



What Have We Already Done?

3. To meet this reduction we have done the following: **a.** Reduced our staff by 3 people, **b.** Reduced school building budgets by 10% so far, **c.** Reduced or put on hold many budgets for supplies and equipment, **d.** eliminated a bus route, **e.** Postponed purchase of buses and any other vehicles needing to be updated or replaced,

f. continued to use “Money in the Bank” to cover month to month expenses. These are only some of the cuts we have made. However, things are reaching a critical stage for us. Our money in the bank will very quickly run out.

4. If the increase in Performance Expectations continues and the decrease in funding continues the next cuts will most certainly cause us to eliminate many more staff positions, including support staff to help our highest need children.

5. All of these reductions will have long-term implications, but none as critical as eliminating staff members. Class sizes could certainly increase, programs could be lost, and overall, the quality of education that USD 309 has enjoyed will be in danger.

What Can You Do?

1. Find out more facts regarding the whole financial picture. You will hear and may also think that “if there is no money what else can the State do?” “If schools are so short of money how can they still give everyone a raise every year?” “We are in the middle of a recession, of course things are tight.”

The state is short of money, so some legislators want to address any revenue increases by allowing local school boards to **increase the Local Option Budget** by whatever amount they may need to. That solution has not only been found by the court to be illegal, but would put the burden solely on owners of land, homes, and businesses in the form of property tax increases. The state has cut revenue sources by cutting taxes by more than a billion dollars since 1995. Being willing to restore some of the other revenue sources along with the cuts that have already been made, would certainly go a long way.

USD 309 did not give any staff member a pay raise this year due to longevity. That includes bus drivers, cooks, custodians, teachers, principals, paras and administrators. The only pay raises given were to teachers who increased their education by taking classes during the school year or the summer.

When the State settled the 2005 lawsuit by agreeing to increase funding to schools, they did so without putting any revenue sources in place to pay for the increased spending. Money that the state had in reserve was used. They also knew that they would run out of money in the 2009-10 school year. In addition, we also had a big downturn in the economy and so the current recession can now be blamed for the whole situation, even though the original plan did not include enough funding.

2. You can call or write to your Senator and Representative expressing your concerns. Here are some names and contact information:

Senator for Reno Co.	Terry Bruce	terry.bruce@senate.ks.gov	785-296-7300
Representative for House District 104	Mike O'Neal	michael.o'neal@house.ks.gov	785-296-2302 (Speaker of the House also)
Representative for House District 102	Janice Pauls	janicel.pauls@house.ks.gov	785-296-7657
Representative for House District 101	Joe Seiwert	joe.seiwert@house.ks.gov	785-296-7680
Senator for Rice Co.	Jay Emler	jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov	785-296-7354
Representative for House District 113	Bob Bethell	bob.bethell@house.ks.gov	785-296-7616

If your representative is not listed here please contact USD 309 office 620-663-7141 and we will be happy to provide you with the appropriate information.

3. Talk to others about the situation and help get the word out. You will find that you can and do make a difference in advocating for the education of our children.

Board of Education USD 309