

# What more state funding for education has meant for the students and teachers in Eudora and in Kansas.

The 2008-09 school year concludes four years of funding increases passed after the Kansas Supreme Court's 2005 decisions in *Montoy v. Kansas*, which found that the legislature was not meeting its constitutional duty to provide suitable finance for education. During a special session in 2005, and after a new study of the costs of educational outcomes in 2006, the legislature narrowly passed significant changes in the school finance formula.

## HOW EUDORA SCHOOLS BENEFITED FROM THE NEW FUNDING FORMULA

The new state funding formulas most greatly benefited districts with a high rate of at-risk student enrollment. For this reason, Eudora ranks near the bottom of districts benefiting from the changed formulas. The net change in per-pupil state aid went up 9.9 percent in the three years from 2004-05 and 2006-07 (the comparative data available from the Legislative Division of Post Audit). This rate of increase puts Eudora Schools in the bottom 15% of all districts in the state in increased aid.

## HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT

Across the state of Kansas, districts spent most of the new money on teachers and students, adding \$448 million for instructional programs, over the first two years alone. New funding that went to Eudora was most heavily dedicated to personnel to maintain and enhance the most effective research-based programs in the district, such as individualized instruction, small class sizes and teacher collaboration.

## DISTRICT ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Throughout this document, it should be noted that many of the increases in programs and staff members have come as the result of enrollment growth throughout this period of time. District enrollment grew from 1,285 students in 2004-05 to the current enrollment of 1,492 in 2008-09.

STUDENT INSTRUCTION	Eudora Schools	State wide
<b>Higher teaching salaries.</b> <i>Locally and around the state, salaries are key to attracting and retaining the most talented professionals in education.</i>	In Eudora, average teacher salaries increased 14.6 percent from \$37,297 in 2004-05 to \$42,745 in 2008-09.	Statewide average rose 11 percent between 2004-05 and 2007-08.
<b>Improved benefits</b> <i>As the Eudora benefit package improved, the rate of employee participation increased. This required more district funding.</i>	The health insurance package for all district employees increased from \$100 a month in 2004-05 to \$260 a month in 2008-09.	Spending on instructional staff benefits in the first years of the finance package was increased by \$80 million, including \$32.7 million for health insurance.
<b>More teaching positions.</b> <i>In Eudora, these additions have allowed us to maintain small class sizes and develop programs of individualized instruction that address the core competencies of reading, math and writing.</i>	Between 2004-05 and 2008-09, our district added 67 teaching positions. This represents increases of 33 regular teachers, 10 special education teachers, two regular paraprofessionals and 22 special education paras.	In the first two years after the settlement, districts added more than 2,600 teaching positions. Regular teachers increased by 3.9 percent; special education teachers increased by 5.7 percent, and paraprofessionals increased by 19 percent.

*This document was produced by Eudora Schools in January 2009, based on data obtained from the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas State Department of Education and district financial records. Date ranges of data vary throughout, in order to use the most complete information available at publication time. Questions may be directed to the district office at 785-542-4910.*

<b>STUDENT INSTRUCTION</b> (continued)	<b>Eudora Schools</b>	<b>State wide</b>
<p><b>Expanded programs for students.</b></p> <p><i>The additions enjoyed in Eudora Schools include everything from programs and equipment for all students to specific interventions to help the students most in need. It should be noted that all-day kindergarten is only reimbursed by the state at a half-day rate and that Eudora parents do not pay school district fees, including for all-day kindergarten.</i></p>	<p>Spending on instruction increased by 59 percent, from \$6,138,218 in 2004-05 to \$9,782,982 in 2007-08. The following are examples of these programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-day kindergarten was begun for all students in Eudora in the fall of 2006, accounting for a sizeable increase in spending.</li> <li>• Eudora Middle School at-risk programs grew with the addition of a teaching position and before/after school programs. The Eudora High School at-risk programs were enhanced, and West Elementary added after-school enrichment programs, including for at-risk students.</li> <li>• Eudora saw a new demand for ESOL programs, or English for Speakers of Other Languages. Between 2004-05 and 2008-09, the district has gone from no ESOL program to a K-12 program with two full-time certified teaching positions.</li> <li>• Technology tools were added, including student laptop carts, wireless networks, a database subscription for student and faculty research and a needs-based computerized instructional program, Virtual Prescriptive Learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts offering at least one all-day kindergarten class rose dramatically between 2004-05 and 2008-09. Nearly 78 percent of Kansas kindergarten students now attend full-time, even though the school finance law only counts those students as part time.</li> <li>• Two-thirds of superintendents in the state said their districts added or expanded programs that offer additional learning support to students before and after school.</li> <li>• More than 60 percent of superintendents said they used additional funding to enhance educational technology, such as laptops, instructional software and support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special education enhancements</b></p> <p><i>In addition to increased spending by districts, the state legislature increased the state's share of funding special education "excess costs" from 83.2 percent to 92 percent, freeing up district funding for other instructional programs.</i></p>	<p>Since the time of the finance settlement, the district has added special education staff positions, including 10 certified teachers and 22 paraprofessionals. This growth in special education staff required an increase in spending of \$875,029 between 2004-05 and 2008-09.</p>	<p>Districts around the state added more than \$100 million for special education between 2004-05 and 2006-07. Spending rose because districts both increased staff salaries and added positions in response to increasing student needs, especially in growing areas, such as autism disorders.</p>

CLASSROOM SUPPORT	Eudora Schools	State wide
<p><b>Improving teacher effectiveness</b>  <i>The Kansas legislature also assisted by adding \$1.65 million for new teacher mentor stipends and \$1.75 million in professional development matching funds.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The district receives \$2,000 in state funds per year to the mentoring program. However, the district spends more than \$66,000 annually on the comprehensive program.</li> <li>• Use of the Curriculum Leadership Institute, \$51,000 annually, has helped teachers write subject area curricula for grades K-12 that is aligned with state standards and other important indicators.</li> <li>• Nearly 20 teaching positions have been added since the legislation that allow teacher collaboration to take place at all schools, representing a major allocation of resources.</li> <li>• Overall spending on professional development increased 63 percent since 2004-05.</li> </ul>	<p>Nearly \$35 million and 100 new positions were added for instructional support services in the first two years, including library/media services and instructional technology support. These funds also provided professional development for experienced teachers and mentoring and induction programs for new teachers. Both approaches have been shown to help improve student achievement <i>and</i> retain teachers in the profession.</p>
<p><b>Support for students</b>  <i>No matter how much is spent on teaching, students can't learn if they are absent, sick, or facing health or emotional issues.</i></p>	<p>Spending on student support increased from \$166,718 in 2004-05 to \$275,350 in 2008-09. The following are examples of these increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the first three years of the finance package, the district added a second full-time nurse position to better handle the student needs in K-12.</li> <li>• Eudora Middle School gained a full-time counselor in 2005-06.</li> <li>• Additional positions were added in speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy.</li> <li>• In addition to state-funded programs, the district also saw tremendous gains in student support, thanks to the Mental Health Integration Grant with Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center and the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant awarded in July 2008.</li> </ul>	<p>Nearly \$22 million and 115 new positions were added in the first two years for attendance and social workers, nurses and other health services, guidance counseling, psychological services and speech/hearing.</p>

<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>Eudora Schools</b>	<b>State wide</b>
<p><b>Superintendents &amp; principals</b>  <i>Research shows that school leadership was the most important reason teachers want to continue working in a school. Additional research shows that leadership is second only to teachers in promoting student learning.</i></p>	<p>Two certified administrative positions were added, including an assistant elementary principal and a full-time curriculum and instruction position.</p>	<p>Over the first two years of the state finance plan, districts added 36 assistant superintendents and assistant principals, positions that usually support teachers with curriculum development and student discipline.</p>
<p><b>Communication &amp; recognition</b>  <i>Programs that provide effective communication with staff members and students' families strengthen the home-school partnership, therefore enhancing student learning. Recognition programs help create a rewarding work environment, supporting morale and reducing turnover.</i></p>	<p>Spending on these programs have averaged approximately \$90,000 per year in the time since 2006-07.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A communications position was added at the district level.</li> <li>• District Web site.</li> <li>• District newsletter, <i>The Card</i>.</li> <li>• Automated parent notification calling system used for crisis and routine communications.</li> <li>• BoardDocs, an online tool for the Eudora Board of Education that facilitates board communication with the general public and makes for paperless board meetings, saving district resources.</li> <li>• Recognition programs, including Teacher of the Year, retiree recognition, Student of the Week, Teacher of the Month, Apple Award and others.</li> </ul>	<p>In the time since 2004-05 districts around the state have enhanced communications programs, often keeping up with new and ever-improving technologies. These tools provide more effective communication with parents in the time of a crisis and strengthen parent and patron involvement in the schools.</p>

<b>MAINTENANCE &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>Eudora Schools</b>	<b>State wide</b>
<p><b>Operating district buildings</b>  <i>Most districts spend more on maintenance and operations, including heating, cooling, lighting and upkeep of buildings, than any other budget category except instruction. This also includes expenditures for improving safety and security.</i></p>	<p>Spending to maintain, operate and improve district buildings rose 23 percent, from \$1,599,055 in 2004-05 to \$1,965,864 in 2007-08. The following are examples of these increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional security cameras were installed at West and the Eudora Community Learning Center, and cameras were added to district buses in 2008.</li> <li>• A new district maintenance position to help better address mechanical needs at all of the district's buildings.</li> <li>• Heating/cooling efficiency programs were added at all buildings to help conserve energy, preserving district resources. District savings in heating and cooling since January of 2005 totals more than \$83,000.</li> </ul>	<p>During the years of 2004-05 and 2006-07, districts across the state addressed rising utilities costs, maintenance and safety concerns by adding \$52 million for operations and maintenance.</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b>  <i>Safety is the reason many districts provide busing for students who live less than 2.5 miles from school, even though the state provides no transportation aid for these students. Eudora provides a free shuttle service to any district student living in the city limits — this program receives no state funds.</i></p>	<p>District transportation spending increased 24 percent, from \$370,177 in 2004-05 to \$460,162 in 2007-08. The following are examples of these increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The free shuttle service now serves more than 500 students on a regular basis, with no reimbursement from the state.</li> <li>• Two additional buses and six additional other vehicles were purchased for student transportation during this time period.</li> <li>• Five district drivers were added to satisfy growing enrollment and special education needs.</li> <li>• One additional staff position was created to help properly maintain the district's transportation fleet.</li> <li>• Extended shuttle schedule to accommodate activities, sports, clubs and after-school student obligations.</li> </ul>	<p>In the first two years of the finance plan, \$24 million was spent by districts on student transportation. The increase in state funding during this time helped transport almost 5,000 more students in the state, even though state transportation aid did not cover these costs.</p>