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TO: House Education Committee

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Virtual Schools

The current virtual school law (KSA 72-3711 et seq.) was amended and approved by the 2008 Kansas Legislature. The law defines virtual school as any school or educational program that (1) is offered for credit; (2) uses distance-learning technologies which predominately use internet-based methods to deliver instruction; (3) involves instruction that occurs asynchronously with the teacher and pupil in separate locations; (4) requires the pupil to make academic progress toward the next grade level and matriculation from kindergarten through high school graduation; (5) requires the pupil to demonstrate competence in subject matter for each class or subject in which the pupil is enrolled as part of the virtual school; and (6) requires age-appropriate pupils to complete state assessment tests.

Statutes provide that school districts must provide adequate training to teachers who teach in virtual schools and programs.

The determination of enrollment in the virtual school or program is based upon the number of hours the pupil was in attendance on a single school day on or before September 19 and on a single school day on or after September 20, but on or before October 4 of each school year.

FINANCING

Determine the number of hours the pupil was in attendance either on a single day on or before September 19 and a single school day on or after September 20, but on or before October 4. Add the hours together and divide by 12 to determine the full-time equivalent enrollment for the pupil. No pupil shall be counted more than six hours in one school day. The timeframe for determining the number of hours is the highest number of hours of attendance. Multiply the FTE enrollment times the base state aid per pupil times 105 percent.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

If the school district has an approved at-risk pupil assistance plan, any students who are non-proficient and a program is made available to assist the student, the base state aid per pupil is increased 25 percent.

Under Kansas law, all revenue generated for virtual students must be spent for such programs.

Funding of virtual schools and programs excludes all out-of-state students.

If a pupil is enrolled in at least one advanced placement course provided by a virtual school or program, the school district providing the virtual school or program shall be paid an amount equal to eight percent of the base state aid per pupil for that pupil as additional virtual school state aid. This additional state aid shall be paid in each semester in which the pupil is enrolled in an advanced placement course. This provision does not apply to school districts unless they have 200 square miles or an enrollment of at least 260 pupils.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
FTE Enrollment	3,211.6	4,071.5	4,891.0	5,138.4	5,496.6
Weighted FTE Enrollment	3,408.4	4,238.7	5,167.3	5,476.2	5,880.3

VIRTUAL SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Kansas currently has 13 virtual schools and 75 virtual programs. Approximately half of these virtual schools and programs will accept out-of-district students. School districts can choose whether to operate a virtual school or program. A virtual school has a separate building number and its own administrative staff. A virtual program operates as a program of an existing building and typically shares administrative staff. There is no difference in statutory or Board of Education requirements between virtual school and programs.

Virtual Schools:

USD 218 – Kansas Connections Academy	USD 400 – Smoky Valley Virtual Charter
USD 230 – Insight School of Kansas	USD 422 – 21 st Century Learning Academy
USD 259 – Learning ² eSchool of Wichita	USD 444 – Academy You
USD 312 – Pleasant View Academy HS	USD 453 – Leavenworth Virtual School
USD 312 – Pleasant View Academy ES	USD 497 – Lawrence Charter Virtual
USD 373 – Heartland Virtual Academy	USD 497 – Lawrence Virtual High School
USD 385 – Andover eCademy	

Virtual Programs:

USD 101 – Second Chance Education Center	USD 251 – North Lyon County Virtual Program
USD 112 – Lakeside Learning Center	USD 252 – South Lyon County Virtual Program
USD 210 – Hugoton Learning Academy	USD 253 – Turning Point Academy
USD 216 – Deerfield Virtual Program	USD 257 – Crossroads Learning Center
USD 229 – Blue Valley Virtual Program	USD 258 – Humboldt Virtual Program
USD 233 – eAcademy	USD 260 – Derby Public Virtual
USD 243 – Lebo-Waverly Virtual Program	USD 262 – Learning Center at Valley Center
USD 244 – Burlington Virtual Program	USD 266 – Maize Virtual High
USD 245 – S Coffey Co. HS Virtual Program	USD 266 – Maize Virtual Preparatory School
USD 246 – NE USD 246 Virtual Program	USD 284 – Chase County Jr/Sr High Virtual
USD 247 – USD 247 SE Virtual Program	USD 286 – Chautauqua Co. Comm. Virtual
USD 250 – Pittsburg Virtual Program	USD 287 – West Franklin Virtual Program

USD 289 – Wellsville Schools Virtual Program
USD 290 – Ottawa Virtual Learning Program
USD 299 – Sylvan Unified Virtual
USD 315 – Colby Virtual Program
USD 323 – Rock Creek Virtual Program
USD 329 – Mill Creek Valley Virtual Program
USD 330 – Mission Valley Virtual Program
USD 336 – Fresh Start Learning Center
USD 340 – Jefferson West Virtual Program
USD 348 – Baldwin Virtual Program
USD 362 – Prairie View Virtual Program
USD 365 – Garnett Virtual Program
USD 366 – Yates Center Virtual Program
USD 372 – Silver Lake Virtual Program
USD 377 – Atchison County Virtual Program
USD 379 – eLearn 379
USD 383 – iQ Academy
USD 397 – Centre K-12 Virtual
USD 404 – Riverton USD 404 Virtual Program
USD 405 – USD 405 Virtual Program
USD 413 – Chanute Virtual Program
USD 416 – Louisburg Virtual Program
USD 417 – Council Grove Virtual Program
USD 421 – Lyndon USD 421 Virtual Program
USD 434 – Santa Fe Trail Virtual Program
USD 435 – Abilene Virtual Program

USD 436 – Caney Valley Virtual
USD 438 – Sawyer Virtual Academy
USD 447 – Cherryvale Diploma Center
USD 454 – Burlingame Virtual Program
USD 458 – Basehor-Linwood Virtual Program
USD 462 – Central Jr/Sr High Virtual Program
USD 464 – Tonganoxie Virtual Program
USD 475 – USD 475 Virtual Program
USD 484 – Fredonia Virtual Program
USD 489 – Learning Center of Ellis County
USD 492 – Flint Hills MS/HS Virtual Program
USD 493 – Columbus Virtual Program
USD 496 – Pawnee Heights Virtual Program
USD 497 – Lawrence Diploma Completion
USD 498 – Valley Heights Virtual Program
USD 499 – Galena Virtual Program
USD 505 – Chetopa Virtual Learning Center
USD 508 – Baxter Springs HS Virtual Program
Greenbush Online (SEKESC)
ESSDACK Learning Centers (ESSDACK)
Community Learning Centers (SWPRSC)
@Homeroom Virtual Classroom (SCKESC)
Diploma Completion Programs (SCKESC)
Smoky Hill Learning Center (SHESC)
Kansas Learns Online (all service centers)