

## **Quality schools in KS a good bargain**

While some claim incorrectly that Kansas ranks high in money spent on education compared to the national average, our state is actually ranked in the middle range at 23<sup>rd</sup> according to National Education Association Research. The national average of money spent per pupil is \$7,367, and Kansas is 6% below that at \$6,925. Kansas is 15% (\$1,234) below the average spending of the “top 10” performing states.

When comparing money spent, consideration of results should also be taken into account. Kansas schools consistently rank in the top ten nationally by every academic measure, so we are getting a good return on our investment.

- On the National Assessment of Educational Progress, KS ranks among the top 10 states in reading and math performance.
- KS is one of the top four states in the nation for the highest SAT and ACT scores.
- In Kansas, 92% of KS youth complete high school or its equivalent.

How does Kansas compare with our immediate neighboring states? Our students do much better academically, except for Colorado, which is about equal in spending and results. In the 2002-2003 National Assessment of Education Progress report, Oklahoma is the one neighboring state that spent significantly less, but we ranked 7<sup>th</sup> nationally and they only ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in number of students at or above “proficient.” Colorado’s rank was 8<sup>th</sup>, but their legislature increased their spending to be above Kansas’ this past spring. Missouri is in-between KS and OK in spending and their rank was 26<sup>th</sup>. Nebraska ranked 21<sup>st</sup> and spent more than Kansas.

Judging by results, Kansas schools are a true bargain.

*Sources: Kansas Department of*

*Education and Kansas Association of School Boards.*

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