

## How can I help?

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### **1. Write your elected officials**

A letter or e-mail from a parent with a personal story of how school budgets cuts affect your child and their school is very powerful.

### **2. Stay informed**

The state budget and its impact on school finance is a fluid issue. The legislature is in session and new bills are being acted upon daily that, if passed, will impact school funding. A budget proposal is expected in late April. Stay informed by reading the news, visiting the district website, at [www.newton.k12.ks.us](http://www.newton.k12.ks.us), and attending legislative forums sponsored by the district and the Newton Chamber of Commerce.

### **3. Get the word out**

Share information with other parents and community members. Following are some talking points you can use for writing letters to your legislators and sharing with others:

- ◆ K-12 schools play a key role in the economic development of communities and the state. Education should be viewed as an investment, not as an expense.
- ◆ The inability to maintain a sufficient level of skilled staff is the most serious threat to maintaining high levels of student achievement.
- ◆ Educational investment is about our children and the future.
- ◆ Education is the core function of the state government, much like national defense is the core function of the federal government. As that core function, it must be maintained in spite of current revenue shortfalls.

## USD 373 Legislators

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Marc Rhoades: State Representative, 72<sup>nd</sup> District,  
email: [marc.rhoades@house.ks.gov](mailto:marc.rhoades@house.ks.gov)  
Phone: 785-296-7682

Don Schroeder: State Representative, 74<sup>th</sup> District,  
email:  
[don.schroeder@house.ks.gov](mailto:don.schroeder@house.ks.gov)  
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Carolyn McGinn: State Senator, 31<sup>st</sup> District, email:  
[carolyn.mcginn@senate.ks.gov](mailto:carolyn.mcginn@senate.ks.gov)  
Phone: 785-296-7377

### **Letters may be sent to Representatives or Senators:**

Kansas State Capitol  
310 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St  
Topeka, KS 66612

### **Other Resources:**

Kansas Legislature  
[www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org)

Kansas National Education Association  
[www.knea.org](http://www.knea.org)

Kansas Families for Education  
[www.fundourpublicschools.com](http://www.fundourpublicschools.com)

Kansas Association of School Boards  
[www.kasb.org](http://www.kasb.org)

Newton Public Schools  
[www.newton.k12.ks.us](http://www.newton.k12.ks.us)

# The Kansas School Funding Crisis

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Prepared by  
Newton  
Public  
Schools

## Kansas Budget Crisis

In the past twelve months, the State of Kansas has cut funding to K-12 education five times for a combined reduction of 9.5% to the base budget per pupil.

**For Newton Public Schools this equals \$2,032,000 in budget reductions in less than one year.**

In addition, the district has lost over \$250,000 in capital outlay state aid, as well as state aid for professional development, Parents as Teachers and Drivers Education.

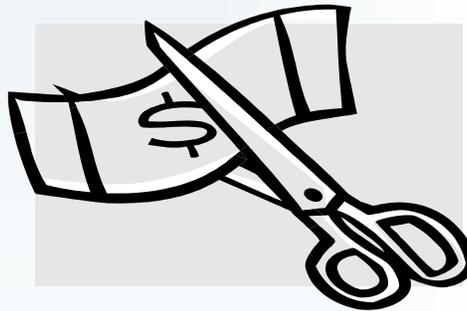
**The worst is not over! State revenue projections continue to decline and Newton schools face additional cuts to the 2010-2011 school budget.**

Newton schools are educating more students with greater needs, using fewer resources. Something has to give and that something will surely be student achievement and future educational and career opportunities.

**USD 373 is the largest employer in Newton and the second largest in Harvey County.** Further state cuts mean additional staff reductions and a higher unemployment rate for our community.

## What have state budget cuts meant to Newton Public Schools?

- ◆ Elementary class sizes have increased
- ◆ Positions eliminated: teachers, instructional coaches, technology specialists, and administration
- ◆ 11% cut in athletics/activities budget
- ◆ Staff salaries frozen
- ◆ Cuts in technology equipment, professional development, student field trips, instructional supplies and textbook replacement funds



**We have been advised to prepare for additional state aid cuts of \$300—\$600 per pupil, or between \$1.4 and \$2.8 million.**

These additional cuts may mean:

- ◆ A reduction of 45 staff members or more
- ◆ Fewer opportunities for students in athletics and activities
- ◆ Increased or additional fees to parents

## Specific new cuts may include:

- ◆ Reduce salaries of all staff
- ◆ Eliminate Building Trades program
- ◆ Reduce classroom teacher aides
- ◆ Reduce library book purchases
- ◆ Reduce athletic budget and/or increase fees
- ◆ Lower thermostat settings
- ◆ Further reduce out-of-district travel
- ◆ Reduce supply and copy budgets
- ◆ Reduce high school electives
- ◆ Reduce school counselors/social workers
- ◆ Reduce at-risk teaching positions
- ◆ Eliminate field trips
- ◆ Reduce substitute teacher pay
- ◆ Reduce or eliminate teacher overload hours and increase class sizes
- ◆ Reduce clerical and custodial positions
- ◆ Reduce technology equipment funds
- ◆ Eliminate all bus routes under 2.5 miles
- ◆ Discontinue service center membership (professional development)
- ◆ Eliminate summer school
- ◆ Reduce district administrative/support positions
- ◆ Reduce building administrative/support positions
- ◆ Reduce school nurse time
- ◆ Discontinue professional memberships
- ◆ Reduce school librarian hours/positions
- ◆ Eliminate all-day kindergarten
- ◆ Eliminate school resource officer positions