

# 461 Neodesha State Assessment Review for Budget Considerations

## 461 Neodesha District Summary

### **(A) Identify the barriers that must be overcome for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on assessments.**

Our teachers, students, and families face a number of challenges in ensuring student proficiency on assessments. Some of those challenges in our School District include:

- High percentage/number of free and reduced students and increased poverty rate
- Though not necessarily identified as at-risk using the free and reduced lunch calculation, a number of students are at a high risk of falling behind
- High or increased levels of homeless students and families and foster care families
- Difficulty in retaining and attracting highly qualified teachers and replacing teachers as they retire
- High levels or increased levels of student trauma (Adverse Childhood Experiences, ACE Study)
- Lack of or limited access to community health services and mental health services
- Special Education funding shortfall has limited supports of our highest need students
- Increased or high levels of student discipline issues, including high numbers of suspensions and/or expulsions
- Lack of instructional time or changes in instructional opportunities faced during the COVID pandemic created learning loss
- High numbers or increasing numbers of single parent families
- Diminishing local control limits our ability to provide supports and services specific to our student and community population
- We believe using one assessment score is not an accurate measure of student success, especially because assessments are written in a way to avoid 100% success for every assessment participant.

### **(B) Identify the budget actions that should be taken to address and remove those barriers.**

Given an appropriate level of funding for both general education and special education, there are a number of budget actions we could take to remove some barriers. Some of them include:

- Increased salary to recruit and retain high quality certified and classified staff
- Additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and SEL needs of all students

- Maintain low teacher/pupil ratio for greater individualized instruction
- Increase funding for Pre-K programs
- Allocating budget to focus on prevention, identification, and intervention concerning trauma and mental health issues

**(C) Identify the amount of time the board estimates it will take for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on the state assessments if the budget actions would be implemented.**

We measure growth each year and document in our KESA plans our success on a variety of student success factors. We emphasize growth and strive to lead the world in the success of each student. Although we do this and are proud of the work we do, many factors make it impossible to estimate a time that every student will achieve a definition of grade level proficiency. Such factors include:

- The current and future levels of school funding have a significant impact on student learning and any increases or decreases have an affect on student success. Any changes to those funding levels, in either direction, impact the ability of students to meet proficiency criteria.
- Lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to fully meet the needs of all students
- Many of the factors that affect student success, such as trauma, poverty, mental health and student disabilities, are out of the local board's control, so giving a time estimate on things that consistently change, or are under the control of other agencies, is not a realistic practice of a local school board.