

Monitoring the Special Session in Topeka

Thursday, July 23, 2016

For the past few months, the Legislature has been charged with passing a school funding plan that meets the requirement in the Kansas Constitution that public schools be funded *equitably*, or with fairness regardless of zip code. (Another decision is pending, to determine if school funding meets the constitutional test for *adequacy* -- that is, if school districts have the money they need to educate their students.) In February the Kansas Supreme Court gave the Legislature a deadline of June 30 to pass a constitutional law, or school districts would be forced to close. This special session gives legislators a final opportunity to avoid a school closure.

How can I monitor what's happening in Topeka?

- School Funding Crisis Information Line, provided by the Kansas City, Kan., School District. Call 913-627-2900 for regularly updated information in both English and Spanish, to help Kansans understand the issues at hand.
- [Game On for Kansas Schools](#) regularly posts news reports from across the state that help explain developments in Topeka.

What can I do to make a difference?

- Contact your legislators and encourage them to resolve this issue as soon as possible by providing a constitutional funding system for public schools. Stay tuned to developments in Topeka. Become informed about the candidates and issues of importance to you and prepare to vote in the Aug. 2 primaries.

- [Contact Legislative leaders](#)

- Governor's Office
Gov. Sam Brownback, [877-579-6757](tel:877-579-6757), governor@state.ks.us

- House of Representatives
Rep. Don Hill, 1720 Luther St., Emporia, KS 66801
[620-341-3716](tel:620-341-3716), don.hill@house.ks.gov

Rep. Peggy Mast, 765 Road 110, Emporia KS 66801
[620-343-2465](tel:620-343-2465), peggy.mast@house.ks.gov

Rep. Ron Highland, 27487 Wells Creek Rd, Wamego KS 66547
[785-296-7310](tel:785-296-7310), ron.highland@house.ks.gov

- Senate
Sen. Jeff Longbine, 2801 Lakeridge Rd, Emporia KS 66801
[620-342-2744](tel:620-342-2744), jeff.longbine@senate.ks.gov

How will I know if our schools close?

If the Legislature does not pass a constitutional funding law by June 30, schools could potentially close. If this happens and causes any disruption to regular business taking place in the Emporia Public Schools, details will be provided as quickly as possible.

- An e-mail announcement will be sent to all employees and a SchoolMessenger phone message will be sent to parents of students attending our schools during the 2015-16 school year.
- [Emporia Public Schools Facebook page](#)
- [District website](#)

What will happen if schools close?

We don't know for sure. But if they are closed on July 1, we will notify our employees, families and community members as soon as we learn details from state officials.