

February 16, 2007

The Honorable Clay Aurand, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 143-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Aurand:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2459 by Representative Kelley

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2459 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2459 would require the State Board of Education to authorize and assist in the implementation of programs on character development which must be offered to students in kindergarten through grade 12. The bill defines character development program to mean a program such as Character First, Character Counts, or other similar program which is secular in nature, and which stresses character qualities. The bill defines character qualities to mean positive character qualities which include honesty, responsibility, attentiveness, patience, kindness, respect, self-control, tolerance, cooperation, initiative, patriotism and citizenship.

The State Board must develop a curriculum, materials, and guidelines that local boards may use in implementing the program of instruction. The State Board must develop standards and objectives for character development within any existing appropriate subject-matter curriculum. Beginning in school year 2007-2008, each school district must provide students in kindergarten through grade eight with character development programs and instruction which are appropriate for the grades at which the programs are offered. If current programs or instruction comply with the bill, new programs do not have to be developed.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2007 SGF	FY 2007 All Funds	FY 2008 SGF	FY 2008 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$107,592	\$107,592
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	2.00


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According to the Department of Education, responsibilities imposed by HB 2459 on the Department of Education would require 2.00 additional FTE positions, one education program consultant and one administrative assistant. The salary for these positions would cost an estimated \$91,136 with fringe benefits, and other operating expenditures are estimated at \$11,456. In addition, \$5,000 for travel costs of an advisory committee would be needed to develop the curriculum. All additional costs would be paid from the State General Fund. Any fiscal effect resulting from enactment of HB 2459 would be in addition to amounts contained in *The FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane A. Goossen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Duane A. Goossen
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education