

Notice of Hearing
for the Kansas Legislature's Special Education Taskforce
For release Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Notice is Hereby Given that,

The 2023 Special Education Taskforce will meet on:

Thursday November 9, 2023

From 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CST.

**At the Kansas State Capitol Old Supreme Court Room, 300 W. 10th Topeka,
KS 66612,**

The meeting shall be livestreamed for members of the public to view.

Pursuant to Kan. Stat. § 72-3442, establishing the 2023 Special Education Funding Task Force (SEFT or Task Force), the Task Force shall "conduct hearings and receive and consider suggestions from teachers, parents, the department of education, the state board of education, other governmental officers and agencies and the general public concerning funding for special education and related services"

Pursuant to the Kansas Legislative House Rules of 2023, "Committee procedure shall be informal, but where any questions arise thereon, the rules or practices of the house are applicable" Rule 1307, and "In any case where rules of the House or the joint rules of the Senate and the House do not apply Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern." Rule 2312. Mason's Manual (2020 Edition) states "It is the duty of the chair to call the committee together, but if the chair is absent or neglects or declines to call a meeting of the committee, a meeting may be held on the call of the majority of its members." § 626(4) Calls for Committee Meetings. See also § 642 Meeting of Special Committees.

Whereas on Tuesday October 10, 2023, the initially authorized SETF Chairmember indicated in an Interim Education Committee meeting, at or around the 6:31 minute mark, that she agreed with statements from fellow legislative members present that calling the Task Force was not necessary. The reasoning provided was that multiple proponents of funding Special Education at the statutory mandate of 92% of excess costs had inquired about the SETF. A failure to call the Task Force hearing, due to the content of the speech to be presented, potentially creates an issue of first amendment concerns. Further, multiple requests, both verbal and via email, by members of the Task Force to the initially authorized Chairmember to call the SETF to order and conduct the statutorily mandated hearing have gone unanswered.

Therefore, in light of each Task Force member's obligation under Kansas Statute to hold a hearing and provide recommendations to the legislature prior to the upcoming legislative session, and to protect the first amendment concerns of the public to be heard, the below listed appointees

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call the meeting in accordance with Kansas Legislative House Rules, the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House, and Mason's Manual:

The hearing is called to order by six of the eleven duly appointed taskforce members:

Representative Valdenia Winn, House District 34, Ranking Minority Member, Kansas K-12 Budget Committee; *Valdenia Winn*

Melanie Haas, Board President of the Kansas State Board of Education; *Melanie Haas*

Brent Yeager, Superintendent of Olathe School District; *Brent Yeager*

Brian Skinner, Kansas Teacher of the Year; *Brian Skinner*

Monica Ross,

Program Director, Infant
Toddler Services

and, *Monica Ross*

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Special Education Director. *Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer*

The Agenda for the meeting shall include, as provided in Kan. Stat. § 72-3442(c)(2) selecting a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from the membership of the task force; and § 72-3442 (d) (1) studying and making recommendations to the existing formula for funding of special education and related services; (2) conduct hearings and consider suggestions from teachers, parents, the department of education, the state board of education, other governmental officers and agencies and the general public concerning the funding for special education and related services; and (3) make and submit reports to the legislature on the work of the task force concerning recommendation of the task force."

Invitations to provide testimony are extended to the Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas Association of School Superintendents, Association of Kansas Special Education Directors, Kansas Parent Teacher Association, Kansas National Educators Association, as well as designated special education directors, educators, parents and students. As the SETF is limited to a single day for hearings and drafting of recommendations, testimony may be limited for time.

Pursuant to Kan. Stat. § 72-3442(c)(5) which provides that Kansas Legislative Administrative Services shall provide such assistance as may be requested by the task force, members of the public are invited to submit comments or written testimony at LegServ@las.ks.gov, with the subject line "For consideration by the 2023 Special Education Taskforce."