

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

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May 12, 2017

To: Senate Select Committee on Education Finance

From: Edward Penner, Research Analyst

Re: Base Amount Calculations

Chairperson Denning requested our office perform calculations to identify a base amount for school finance. The following memorandum summarizes those calculations and provides the result of the calculations.

Calculating the Spending Level of School Districts

The sum of expenditures from the general fund, supplemental general fund, at-risk funds, and bilingual fund (excluding flow-through aid, transfers and transportation expenditures) was divided by the weighted enrollment according to the weightings recommended by the Legislative Division of Post Audit cost study. This amount was then divided by 1.4, to account for the fact that local option budgets are approximately 40 percent of general fund budgets, to get to a per weighted pupil base amount. The average of those per weighted pupil base amounts of the identified schools was \$4,080.

Identifying Schools

Four measures were used to identify school districts. The measures used were the percent of students at grade level on state math and English language arts assessments, the percent of students at college and career ready level on state math and English language arts assessments, the average composite ACT score, and the 4 year graduation rate. For each measure, the metric was graphed opposite the percentage of students in that district eligible for free lunch under the National School Lunch Program for every district with 500 or more students. Those graphs were used to identify a line of best fit, and the formula associated with that line was used to determine the expected results of a district at any given percentage of students eligible for free lunch. The actual results of the districts were then compared to the expected results of districts with the same percentage of students eligible for free lunch.

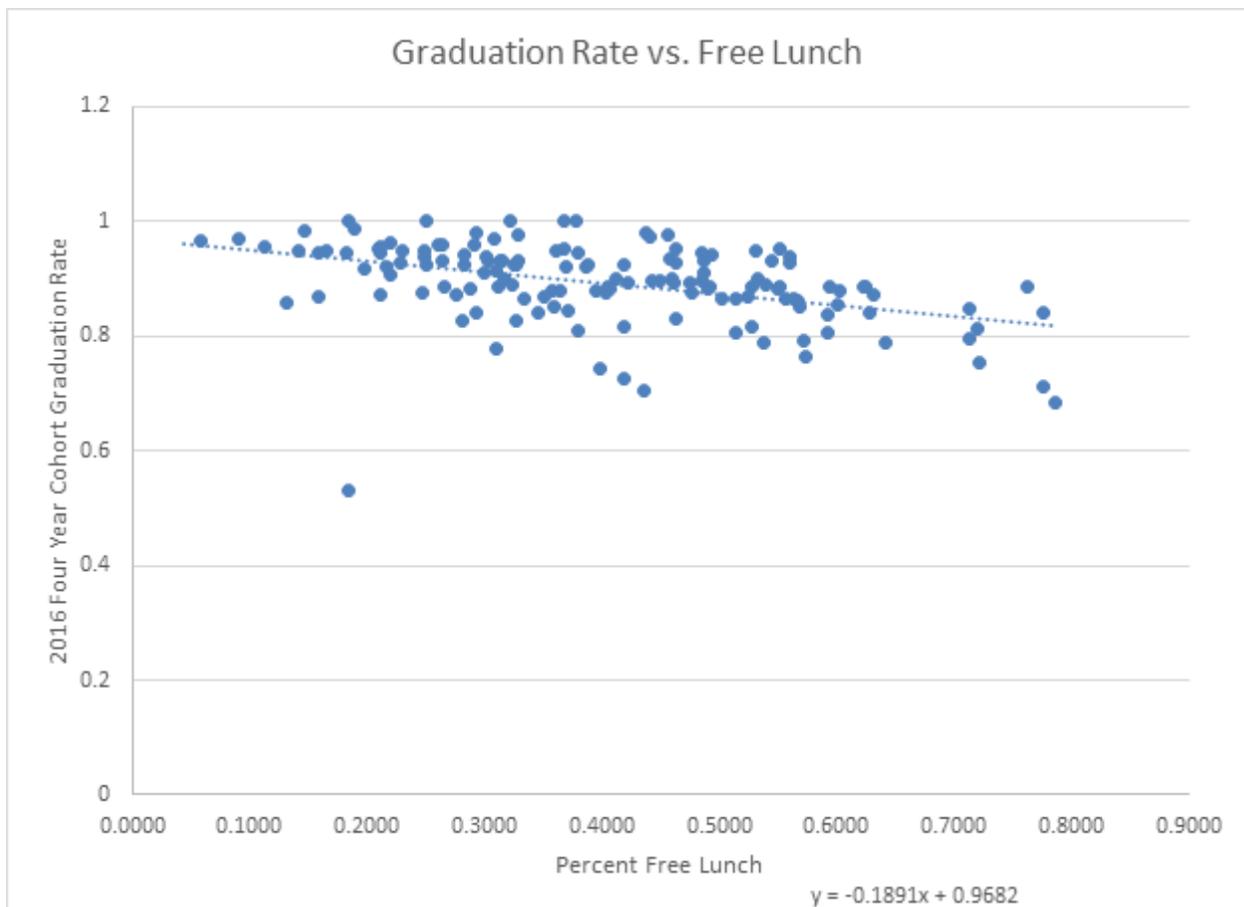
The first set of identified districts were those that exceeded their expected results on all 4 measures; 26 districts were identified using this approach.

The second set of identified districts were those whose average scaled difference on all 4 measures was greater than or equal to 1 standard deviation from the average scaled difference of all districts; 30 districts were identified using this approach.

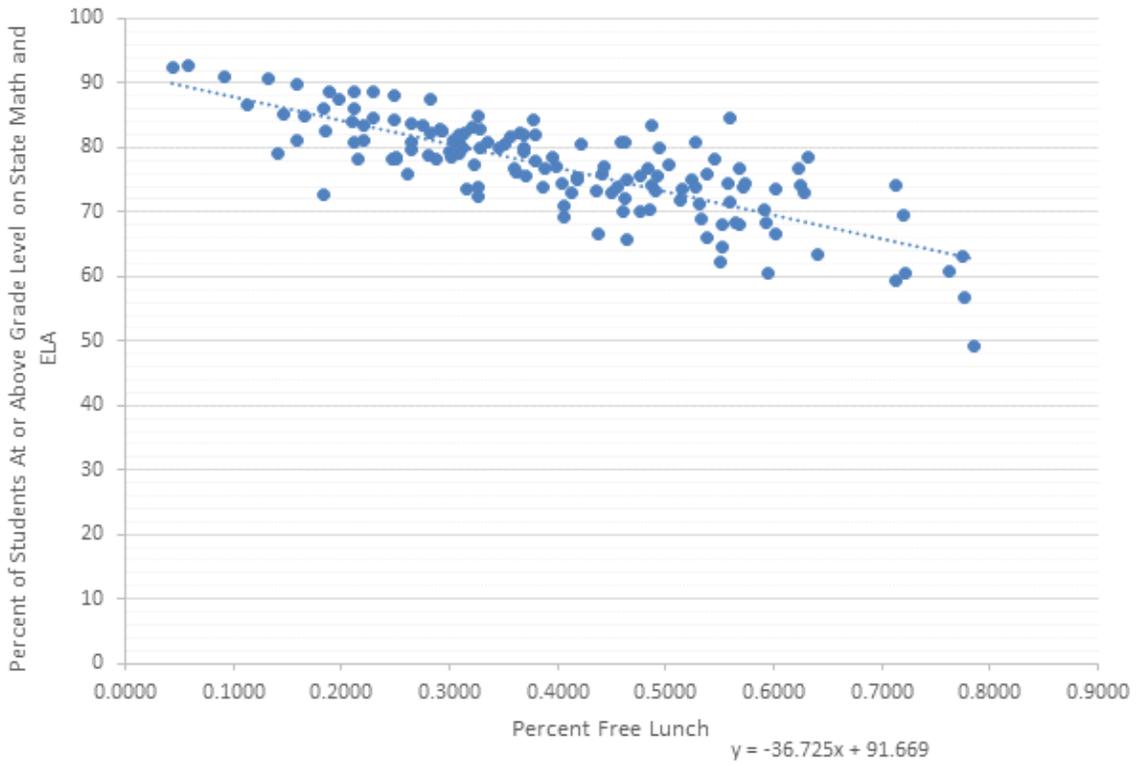
Because 15 districts were identified using both approaches, a total of 41 districts were identified:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 109 – Republic County | 275 – Triplains | 383 – Manhattan |
| 110 – Thunder Ridge | 282 – West Elk | 388 – Ellis |
| 113 – Prairie Hills | 298 – Lincoln | 389 – Eureka |
| 212 – Northern Valley | 305 – Salina | 390 – Hamilton |
| 223 – Barnes | 323 – Rock Creek | 405 – Lyons |
| 229 – Blue Valley | 332 – Cunningham | 413 – Chanute |
| 231 – Gardner-Edgerton | 336 – Holton | 415 – Hiawatha |
| 232 – De Soto | 346 – Jayhawk | 440 – Halstead |
| 235 – Uniontown | 361 – Chaparral | 445 – Coffeyville |
| 239 – North Ottawa County | 366 – Woodson | 446 – Independence |
| 241 – Wallace County | 371 – Montezuma | 460 – Hesston |
| 249 – Frontenac | 372 – Silver Lake | 503 – Parsons |
| 268 – Cheney | 376 – Sterling | 504 – Oswego |
| 272 – Waconda | 380 – Holton | |

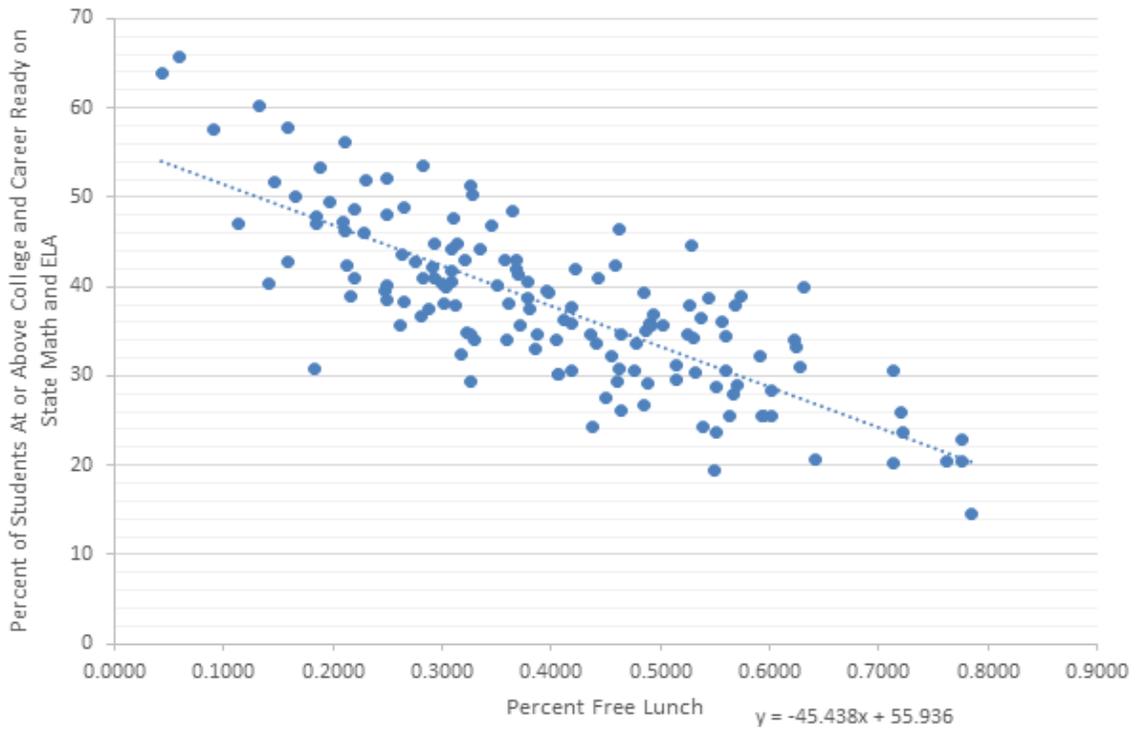
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Grade Level Assessments vs. Free Lunch



College and Career Ready Assessments vs. Free Lunch



ACT Composite Score vs. Free Lunch

