



For Immediate Release
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OKLAHOMA CITY – Leaders of the associations representing school boards, school administrators, as well as suburban school districts today learned that Oklahoma’s public schools would receive \$74 million in additional funds for fiscal year 2014. In addition, the Department of Career and Technology Education is expected to receive an additional \$3 million in the fiscal year 2014.

Oklahoma public schools are also expected to receive approximately \$17 million to supplement their budgets for the current fiscal year. These supplemental funds will be used to pay for premium increases in educator health insurance and to reimburse districts for ad valorem funds lost to certain manufacturing tax credits.

Common education funding has decreased by more than \$274 million when adjusted for increased enrollment since the 2009 fiscal year.

“The legislature and Governor have recognized that cuts to common education funding have had a devastating impact on student achievement in our state. Although the funding increase is a step in the right direction, I hope it is the first step and not the last step toward adequately funding our state’s public schools,” said Dr. Jeff Mills, Executive Director of the Oklahoma State School Boards Association (OSSBA).

“School administrators appreciate the legislature’s financial support of common education in this budget agreement,” said Steven Crawford, Executive Director of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA). “Schools are experiencing financial difficulty in Oklahoma and it has been estimated that schools actually need approximately \$118 million additional dollars in this budget to be level funded in the 2014 fiscal year.”

“Our state’s leaders are to be commended for listening to parents, educators, board members and business leaders’ rally cry for additional funds for common education; which is evidenced by the proposed \$74 million increase for common education. However the reality is that per pupil funding will drop in December of 2013 because of increased enrollment, reduced school land earnings, reduced gross production revenue and the effects of state question 766,” said Ryan Owens, Executive Director of the United Suburban Schools Association (USSA).

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