



January 22, 2007

## **No Relationship Between Spending and Achievement**

*By John R. LaPlante*

(WICHITA) – Do public school districts need more funding to boost their achievement? A new report released by the Flint Hills Center for Public Policy finds that some districts do a much better job than others, suggesting that increased funding alone does not guarantee success. Read more in [“Spending and Achievement in Kansas: A District-by-District Review.”](#)

“Policy makers and citizens alike have asked for information on specific districts,” says John R. LaPlante, education policy fellow of the Wichita-based think tank and author of the report. “This report gives us a closer look at specific districts.”

The report looks at performance and per-pupil spending for each district. On average, districts in the state spend \$118 per pupil for each one percent of students who are proficient. Some spend as little as \$75, while others spend \$250, and some high-poverty districts do much better than others. The data analyzed in the report is taken from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

“We often hear that the major problem of schools today is that they don’t have enough money,” says LaPlante. “Everyone appreciates that to run a school, you need funds. But we must make sure that the money is well spent. Competition will do that. It’s time to let competition among schools for student enrollment have a bigger role in determining who gets funded, rather than simply giving each district more money regardless of performance