

Time Runs Short on KS School Finance

The Kansas Legislature is currently on break, off the clock for five days prior to the lawmakers returning to Topeka on Wednesday.

Among issues remaining unfinished is the widely watched matter of school finance, and how the Legislature will move forward with Governor Sam Brownback's proposals.

Senator Dennis Pyle, during a forum held in Horton Saturday, said it's a matter of wait and see, with no definite outcome yet in sight(Play Audio :28 seconds)

Just last week, the Republican Vice-President of the Senate said that while he supports most of Brownback's plan, there doesn't seem to be enough support in the Senate Education Committee to have it ready for debate.

Meanwhile, Brownback has said he's not giving up, saying the current funding formula is broken, which has led to litigation, meaning the state spends money on court costs, and not education itself. Brownback's plan would give local school districts more flexibility in how they raise and spend their money. However, USD 430 School Board Member Roger Madere questioned that approach, and how a small district can find the money needed, during Saturday's forum in Horton(Play Audio :20 seconds)

Pyle says he believes that concern has already been addressed in how the Governor's finance formula is designed(Play Audio :21 seconds)

Legislators are half-way through the 2012 session, and that's what has led some senators to say there's not enough time left to give the Governor's plan proper consideration.