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Kan. Senate passes expanded school funding plan

State says 'NO' to Building Common Core

By JENNIFER HANSEN

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas State Senate today passed a sweeping school funding plan that would increase state aid to schools by 10 percent over the next five years, while also rejecting a proposal to expand the state's common core standards.

The Senate's action on the funding plan, which was passed by a 27-10 vote, marks a significant victory for education advocates who have long pushed for increased state funding for schools. The plan would increase the state's contribution to the state education fund from \$1.2 billion to \$1.32 billion over the next five years, with the increase phased in over time.

At the same time, the Senate rejected a proposal to expand the state's common core standards, which would have required all schools to adopt the standards by 2015. The Senate's decision was a clear signal that lawmakers are not ready to move forward with the common core standards at this time.

The funding plan also includes provisions to increase the state's contribution to the state education fund for charter schools and to provide additional support for rural schools. The plan is expected to be signed into law by Governor Brown-Becker in the coming weeks.

Water rates in Salina aimed at keeping precious commodity

By JENNIFER HANSEN

SALINA, Kan. — Salina officials are looking for ways to keep water rates low as they seek to attract new businesses to the city. The city's water utility is currently facing a budget deficit, and officials are looking for ways to reduce costs without raising rates.

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