

IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS ON MUSIC EDUCATION IN KANSAS' SCHOOLS



2/24/2011

Summary of initial findings

Kansas Music Educators Advocacy Committee

Dr. Frederick Burrack and Dr. Phillip Payne, Kansas State University

Impact of Budget Cuts on Music Education in Kansas' Schools

SUMMARY OF INITIAL FINDINGS

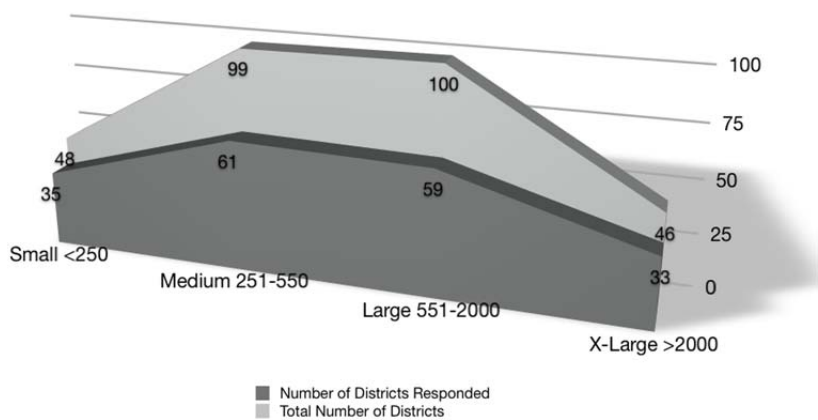
POPULATION AND REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE FOR THIS SURVEY

There are 293 school districts in Kansas and 190 school districts responded to the survey: a response rate of 64.4%.

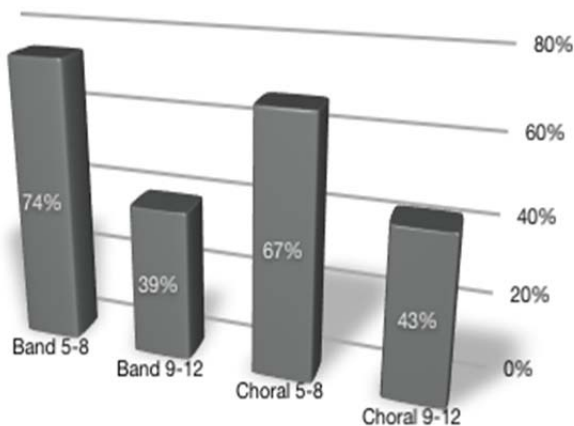
In the figure to the right, you see a surveyed sample representative of all school sizes.

- 73% of the small districts (< 250)
- 62% of medium (251-550)
- 59% of large (551-2000)
- 72% of X-large (> 2000)

Comparison of Survey Responses to Total Kansas School Districts



Percentage of program involving more than 20% of the student body



GOOD NEWS

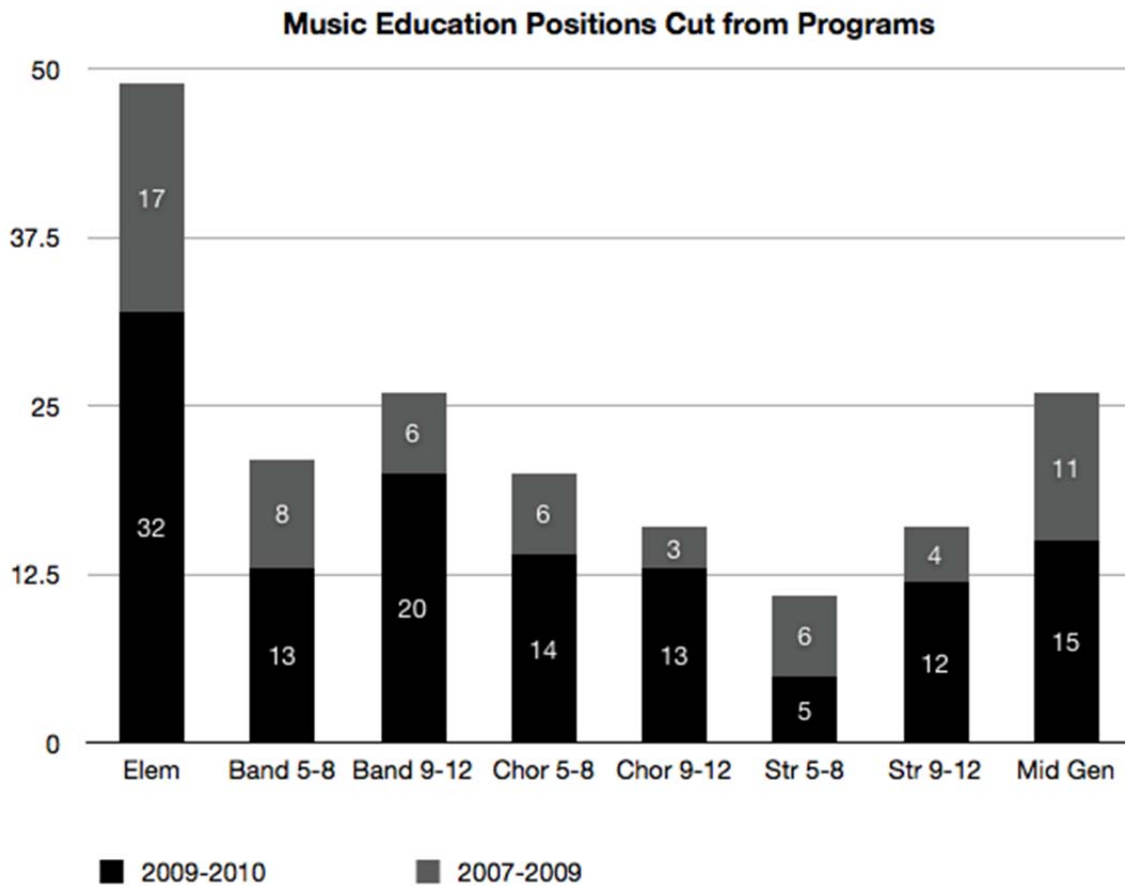
Participation in Kansas' band and choral programs are strong. More than 20% of the student body is reported in the following:

- 74% of the middle school bands
- 39% of the high school bands
- 67% of the middle school choirs
- 43% of the high school choirs
- 16% of the schools with string programs

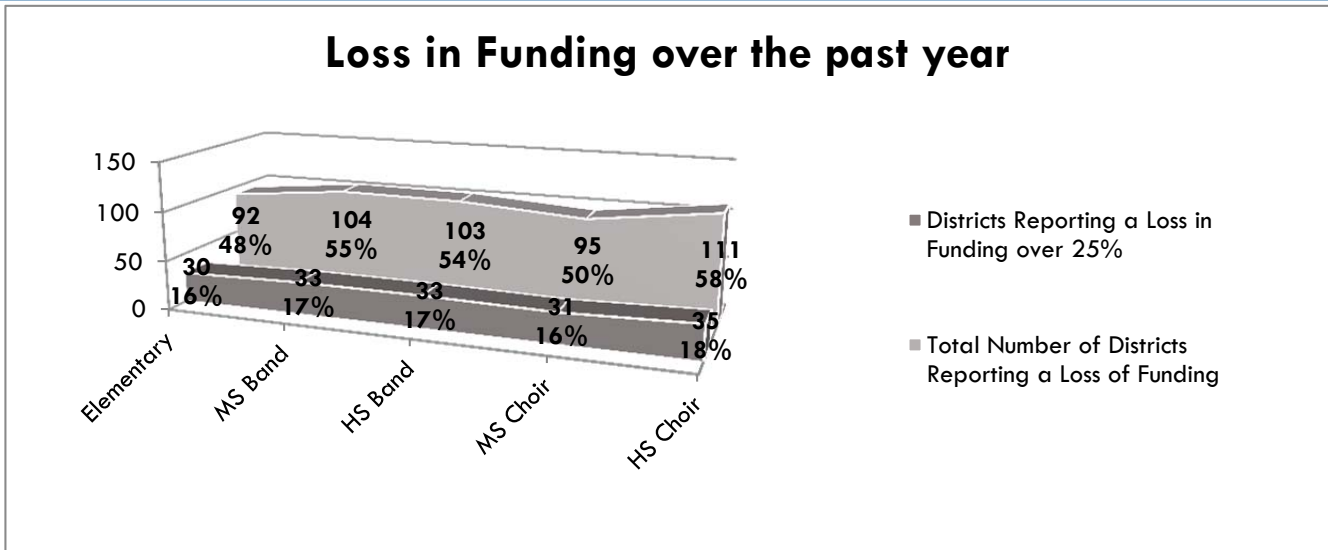
POSITIONS CUT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

The survey indicated that in the past three years, 185 music education positions had been cut: 124 in the past year and 61 in the two years prior.

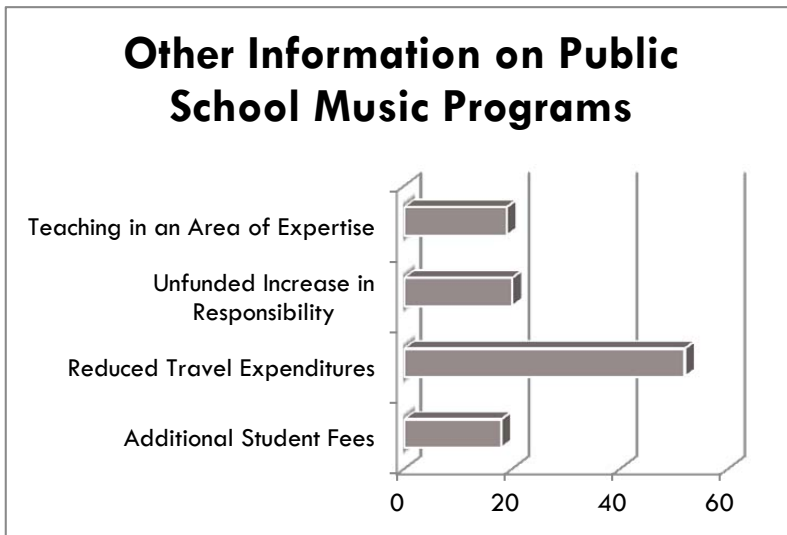
The dark column in chart below indicates the number of positions cut this past year in each category of music education. The gray above indicates the number of positions that had been cut in the previous two years. Generalized across the entire population, up to 167 music education positions may have been cut in 2009-2010 and 250 from 2007-2010.



Over the past year, up to 55% of reporting districts reported a loss of funding for the current fiscal year with respect to their vocal and instrumental music programs. Furthermore, up to 33% of those districts music programs (18% of all respondents) registered funding cuts over 25% of their previous year's operating budget. The percentages shown in the chart on the next page are those compared to the total respondents. If we generalize this to the entire state, up to 168 districts might have cut their music programs' funding and up to 53 districts could have cut their music programs' budgets by over 25%.



Other areas investigated by the KMEA advocacy committee included the ones showed here.



20% of the respondents reported an increase in responsibility with no compensation.

19% of the responding districts reported that music teachers were being asked to teach courses outside of their area of expertise.

50% of the responding districts reported a reduction in travel expenditures.

18% of the reporting districts are turning to student fees to supplement the unfunded expenditures.

To extract meaningful data for the purposes of advocacy in the state of Kansas, the respondents were sorted by size and examined to determine if school size was related to loss of funding or any other variables investigated by this survey. No significant relationships were found. The lack of significant results can be viewed as both good news and bad. The good news is that no one demographic (In this case school size) is being targeted more than the other and the funding cuts are being spread across-the-board within the state of Kansas. However, the bad news is that there is not one primary area we must focus our advocacy efforts. We must advocate everywhere and to everyone. The trend of the current data is an increase in loss of positions and loss of funding. We must make these data known and the impact these actions are having on the students in our music programs. As music educators we must first educate ourselves on the perils facing our profession then we must educate our parents and community members regarding the importance and value of the arts and the harsh realities that lie ahead. We cannot do this as individuals; we must rise as a cohesive group and continue to educate in the area of music.