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LEADER & TIMES
FRIDAY APRIL 4, 2014
STATE MATCHING INCREASES TO 54%
SALES TAX REMAINS AT 2.2%
PROPERTY TAX DECREASES TO 24%

Kan. Senate passes expanded school funding plan

Senate signs bill to expand Common Core

By Chris Kavan

SENATORS in the Kansas Senate today passed a bill that would expand the state's Common Core standards to include science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

The bill, known as House Bill 2014-0001, would require the state to develop and implement standards for STEM subjects by the end of 2015. The bill also would require the state to provide funding to support the development and implementation of these standards.

The bill was passed by a vote of 24-10 in the Senate. It now moves to the House for consideration.

The bill is part of a larger effort to improve the state's education system. The state's education commissioner, Scott Kruze, said that the bill is a "critical step" in ensuring that all students have access to high-quality education.

The bill also would require the state to provide funding to support the development and implementation of these standards. The state would provide \$10 million for the development of the standards and \$5 million for the implementation of the standards.

The bill is expected to be signed into law by the governor in the next few days.

Water rates in Salina aimed at keeping precious commodity

By Chris Kavan

SALINA CITY 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, Salina Water Utility, is considering a rate-of-return study to determine if the current rates are sufficient to cover the cost of the water supply.

The city's water supply is primarily from the Ogallala Aquifer, which is a finite resource. The city is concerned that the current rates are not sufficient to cover the cost of the water supply, which could lead to a shortage of water in the future.

The city is looking for ways to keep water rates low, such as by investing in water conservation programs and infrastructure improvements. The city also is looking for ways to attract new businesses to the city, which would create jobs and increase the city's tax base.

The city's water utility is currently in the process of conducting a rate-of-return study. The study is expected to be completed in the next few months.