

Tax Abatement Reporting in Kansas

*The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the professional organization that establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments. In 2015, GASB added "[Statement No. 77 on Tax Abatement Disclosures](#)" to its Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). GASB 77 requires most state and local governments (including school districts) to report tax abatement programs (if they have such a program/s) in their annual comprehensive financial reports (ACFRs), specifying the **amount of revenue reduced or foregone** as a result of these tax abatements programs. This new rule, GASB 77, allows the public to see how much public-service revenue is lost due to tax breaks given to corporations. This road map highlights key people and organizations involved in the implementation of GASB 77, the reporting status of jurisdictions in the state, and other information relevant to GASB 77 compliance in Kansas.*

Who in state government is most likely to influence GASB 77 disclosure? Director of Accounts and Reports Nancy Ruoff. The [Office of Accounts and Reports](#) is responsible for providing guidance to Kansas municipalities on budgeting, accounting and reporting issues and statutory requirements, and for receiving and reviewing municipal budgets and audits.

Does the state's most recent ACFR include GASB 77 disclosure on state revenue losses?
Yes.

How many counties, municipalities and school districts in the state are required to conform with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and therefore GASB Statements? According to GASB's [research brief](#) titled "State and Local Government Use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for General Purpose External Financial Reporting" (2008), none of Kansas's counties, municipalities and school districts are required by state law to use GAAP accounting. Some counties voluntarily use GAAP reporting, presumably to satisfy federal government requirements for governmental bodies receiving more than \$750,000 in federal aid annually, credit ratings agencies and to obtain the lowest possible interest rates on bond borrowings. The majority of Kansas's school districts use the Kansas Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide (KMAAG) instead of GAAP. For these districts, [GASB 77 doesn't apply](#), so abatement-driven revenue losses may be far more prevalent.

Does state government monitor fiscal stress within county/municipality/school district?
No.

Who commented on the GASB 77 Exposure Draft from Kansas? No one.

Does the state government or do any academic/NGO institutions provide technical assistance on GAAP, GASB, or completing ACFRs? The Policy Manual of the Chief Financial Officer’s office has broad rules for financial reporting but offers no detailed information or expectations on conforming with new GASB statements.

Which of the state’s five most populous counties, municipalities, and school districts reported GASB 77 disclosures [in the most recent ACFR available?](#)

Report Tax Abatements	Do Not Report Tax Abatements
City of Wichita	Douglas County
City of Overland Park	Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools
Kansas City	
City of Olathe	
City of Topeka	
Johnson County	
Sedgwick County	
Shawnee County	
Wyandotte County	
Wichita Public Schools	
Olathe Public Schools	
Shawnee Mission School District	
Blue Valley Unified School District	

Is there a state office that collects Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFRs) from counties/cities/school districts? The Chief Financial Officer in the Office of Administration collects and reviews municipal audit reports, but these reports are not published online.

Which state office is responsible for completing state’s ACFR? Kansas Department of Administration, Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

For more information on GASB 77, visit goodjobsfirst.org/tax-abatement-disclosures

Updated January 2023