Session of 2026

Senate Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2402

By Committee on Education

3-17

AN ACT concerning education; relating to school districts; requiring eligible boards of education to consider participation in the community eligibility provision; providing a financial hardship exception to such participation; requiring the state department of education to assist school districts seeking such participation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) Each school year, the board of education of each school district shall determine the number of students enrolled in and attending school in each school of such district who qualifies for free meals under the national school lunch program. School districts may provide appropriate instruction and assistance to students and families as necessary to ensure accurate student participation in such program.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), after making the determination provided in subsection (a), if a school district or school of the school district is eligible to participate in the community eligibility provision of 42 U.S.C. § 1759a, the board of education of such school district shall consider such participation. If such participation is so desired and would not cause financial hardship as provided in paragraph (2), such board of education shall by majority vote officially affirm such participation and direct the superintendent to perform any necessary tasks for such participation.

(2) If participation in the community eligibility provision of 42 U.S.C. § 1759a would cause financial hardship to a school district, the board of education of such school district shall demonstrate the financial hardship in an open public meeting of such board and by majority vote declare that such school district or school of a school district elects not to participate in the community eligibility provision.

(c) The state department of education shall assist any school district with one or more schools that qualify for the community eligibility provision in such school district's efforts to participate in the community eligibility provision of 42 U.S.C. § 1759a.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.