

Approved: 2-14-95
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rochelle Chronister at 3:30 p.m. on January 31, 1995 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Lois Thompson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Joel Rutledge
Pat Baker, Associate Director, Kansas State Board of Education
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Schools
Bob Goodwin, Wichita Schools
Preston Williams, Eisenhower Middle School, Topeka
Jenny Bernard, Eisenhower Middle School, Topeka
Sue Chase, KNEA
Gerald Beavers, Chief of Police, Topeka

Others attending: See attached list

Representative Larkin moved and Representative Hayzlett seconded motion to approve minutes of January 17, 18 and 19. Motion carried.

Hearing opened on **HB 2109 allowing law enforcement officers to take child into temporary custody if child is supposed to be in school; take child to school or home.**

Representative Joel Rutledge testified in support of **HB 2109**. He sponsored this bill because currently Kansas does not have "truancy" laws -- previous laws were stricken some years ago for fiscal reasons. The State required SRS to act. This bill gives "permission" to a police officer who sees a youth on the street who is "truant" from school to either take the child home, return the child to school or a place designated by the school. (Attachment 1)

Patricia Baker, Associate Executive Director/General Counsel for Kansas Association of School Boards appeared in support of **HB 2109**. KASB stresses that **HB 2109** should be part of an overall strategy to reform current enforcement provisions. Strategies they propose: 1) count unexcused absences throughout the entire school year, rather than starting over each semester, 2) allow school districts to appoint a truant officer who could ask the court directly for an order to return the student to school, through an expedited hearing process. 3) make it easier to get services to parents who need help, but also provide meaningful sanctions, such as fines, when parents refuse to follow court orders or repeatedly violate the compulsory attendance law. (Attachment 2)

Chief Gerald R. Beavers, Topeka Police Department, also representing the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police spoke in support of **HB 2109**. This issue is very real for law enforcement across Kansas. Property crimes in Kansas communities are rising dramatically. They believe many of these are committed by truant school children. The change to KSA 38-1527 would allow the officers to remove the potential for crimes by taking the truants into custody. (Attachment 3)

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, testified in support of **HB 2109**. She quoted the acting secretary of S.R.S who stated that "the two most reliable factors to predict future offender behavior are the age of the first offense and committing a second adjudicated offense. The younger the age of the first offense the more likely the child will commit additional offenses." (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 31, 1995.

Bob Goodwin, Coordinator, Social Services for the Wichita Public Schools, spoke in support of **HB 2109**. He explained the current system used by the Wichita Public Schools and described their truancy unit. In the 1995-1996 school year there will be no USD #259 secretary who currently prepares cases for Juvenile Court. (Attachment 5)

Preston Williams, School Social Worker, Eisenhower Middle School, Topeka stated the Mental Health Team at Eisenhower Middle School strongly supports the need to enforce the Kansas Compulsory Attendance Laws. Without a workable mechanism and treatment plan for truancy, the law is currently just a joke. The Mental Health Team is concerned that our current law enforcement staff has neither the work force nor the necessary amount of time to provide consistent enforcement of **HB 2109**. (Attachment 6)

Jenny Bernard, member of the Mental Health Team at Eisenhower Middle School, shared experiences with truants and the truancy process.

Susan Chase, representing Kansas National Education Association, offered comments on **HB 2109**. KNEA believes truancy is a problem that needs to be addressed. However, they are concerned about what will happen to the student when they are returned to school since the student does not want to be there. They are concerned that people will take **HB 2109** as a solution instead of an option in a comprehensive package that addresses the issue of student truancy. (Attachment 7)

Jacque Oakes representing Schools for Quality Education submitted written testimony in favor of **HB 2109**. (Attachment 8)

Copies of a letter addressed to Chairman Chronister from Dr. David L. Benson, Superintendent of Schools, Blue Valley School District, addressing a misrepresentation of Blue Valley Testing Program by the Kansas Education Watch Network was shared with committee members. (Attachment 9)

The floor was opened to questions from the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 1995.

GUEST LIST

Committee: Education

Date: 1-31-95

NAME: (Please print)	Address:	Company/Organization:
GERALD BEAVERS	204 W 5TH ST TOPEKA, KS 66603	TOPEKA POLICE KANSAS CHIEF'S ASSOC.
EULALA ANDERSON	5719 SW Huntoon TOPEKA KS 66604	USD #501 Belvoir Elem Counselor
Karen Coulter	Overland Park	Donation for Leo
Dodie Lacey	Topeka	KCA
Kenny Kuley	Topeka	KASB
Pat Baker	Topeka	KASB
Bob Gaub	Winchester	Citizen
DAWNY Jones	ARK CITY, KS	CITIZEN
Sharon Brindell	Topeka	CWA of KS
Kristen Haas	Topeka	Capital-Journal
Ann Brumitt	Topeka	USD 501
Arlyn Johnson	Tecumseh	
GERMIE ANDERSON	TOPEKA	USA of KS
Michael Miller	Topeka	City of Topeka
Bob Johnson	Topeka	WV LAW SCHOOL

JOEL RUTLEDGE
SEDGWICK COUNTY
2645 S. WASHINGTON
WICHITA, KANSAS 67216
(316) 269-3455



TOPEKA
—
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE, NINETY-EIGHTH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 278-W
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504
913-296-7680
1-800-432-3924

TESTIMONY HB 2109
TEMPORARY CUSTODY
January 31, 1995

Madam Chair; members of the committee; I thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

Many people are unaware that we do not currently have "truancy" laws - our previous laws were stricken some number of years ago due to Fiscal (as opposed to policy-or constitutionality-related) reasons.

Simply put, the state required SRS to act, and this put an enormous burden on the budget.

The problem we are facing is this: we have no "teeth" in our compulsory attendance law; no ability for someone to return children to school. Right now, if a police officer sees a kid on the streets, and has no cause to believe that either the child has committed a crime or is "in need of care", they must simply turn their heads and let them go. In addition to the education they are missing out on, this gives rise to additional problems: our youth are basically allowed to wander the streets or hang out at their favorite spots, unhindered. This places them in a bad situation; lots of time, nothing to do, and no supervision. They are open to the influences of individuals and elements that may give rise to a habit of crime.

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There are still more effects, too; the unenforceability of our current lack of statutes in this area gives rise to a contempt for “the law”; our children will have no respect for a law that can’t be enforced, and this in turn reaffirms the belief that there will be no “swift, sure justice” for disobeying laws, and no accountability for one’s actions.

This law will be a “first line of defense” for helping prevent our children from getting involved in crime in the first place: after all, a kid on the street often leads to a kid committing a crime on that street.

I have heard from a number of citizens from across the state, from judges, police officers, State Troopers, school officials from Topeka and Wichita, SRS officials and others, all issuing support for this bill. I introduced this on behalf of the Kansas Chiefs of Police Association, who worked with a Juvenile division district court judge on the wording and concept.

One further thing you should make a note of is that the language is permissive; that is, it does not require an officer to act when they see a “truant” youth. By the way, there is a zero fiscal note on this bill.

In closing, I would like to state that this will provide us with a tool with which to help children; to keep them off the streets, and in school, where they have a chance.

Thank you, and I’ll be available for questions.

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

1420 S.W. Arrowhead Rd. Topeka, Kansas 66604
913-273-3600

Testimony on H.B. 2109
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Patricia Baker, Associate Executive Director/General Counsel
Kansas Association of School Boards

January 31, 1995

Thank you, Madam Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before this committee in support of House Bill 2109. The Kansas Association of School Boards welcomes the chance to look at ways to improve the enforcement of our compulsory attendance laws.

We would like to stress that HB 2109 should be part of an overall strategy to reform our current enforcement provisions. Under the state's compulsory attendance law, students age 16 and under are required to attend school. If a student has more than three unexcused absences in a semester, the school district is required to notify the Department of Social and Rehabilitational Services (if the student is age 14 or under) or the district court (if the student is over 14). These authorities are then supposed to conduct an investigation, and if necessary, petition the court for a "child in need of care" ruling that would order the parent to get the student in school or provide other services.

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1-31-95

There seem to be several problems with this system. First, SRS or the local law enforcement system may believe they are confronted with higher priorities than a truant student. Second, the process may take a number of weeks to resolve. Under current law, a student's unexcused absences are "wiped clean" at the beginning of each semester. By the time the process is completed, the semester may have ended and the process starts all over again. Third, the process requires the educational, social service and law enforcement systems to take an adversarial position against parents, which may make it harder to serve the child.

KASB suggests that this process for addressing truancy should be made faster and more flexible. Strategies could include:

1. Count unexcused absences throughout the entire school year, rather than starting over each semester.

2. Allow school districts to appoint a truant officer who could ask the court directly for an order to return the student to school, through an expedited hearing process.

3. Make it easier to get services to parents who need help, but also provide meaningful sanctions, such as fines, when parents refuse to follow court orders or repeatedly violate the compulsory attendance law.

We request your consideration of all of these concerns. Thank you.

**CHIEF GERALD R. BEAVERS
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE**

I come before this committee today to speak about House Bill #2109. I speak for myself as the Chief of the Topeka Police Department, and as the representative of the Legislative Committee for the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police.

The change proposed under HB2109 is to expand KSA 38-1527, entitled "Child under 18, when law enforcement officers or court services officers may take into custody." The addition will give law enforcement officers the authority to take into custody a child subject to compulsory school attendance who is truant. The amendment to 38-1528 would require the officers to take the child to the school he attends or a place designated by the school board.

The issue is very real for law enforcement across Kansas. The property crimes in our communities are rising dramatically. We believe that many of these are committed by truant school children. The change to KSA 38-1527 would allow us to remove the potential for crimes by taking the truants into custody. This is a significant impact that the City of Topeka is considering under a curfew ordinance.

But the impact is much larger in the lives of our children. Taking the youngsters back to school to continue their education and training seems better than taking criminal action against them.

Not all of the truants will stay at the school. This may require some additional programs or educational alternatives. I am sure it can have some financial impact on the school boards. The bottom line, however, is a reduction of crime and we believe an improved education.

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Larry R. Vaughn
Superintendent

Testimony in Support of H.B. 2109
By Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
January 31, 1995

Madam Chairman, Members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing us to rise in support of H.B. 2109 which would give law enforcement the ability to detain juveniles solely for being truant. Under this proposed act the officer would then have the options to either return the child to school, take the child to a place designated by the school, or to the parent or guardian.

Truancy is often the first warning sign that a child is in trouble. Truancy is often the first step in the path to severe academic and social problems. Students who drop out nearly always have attendance problems beginning in elementary school. During this session there have been numerous committee meetings dealing with the problems associated with juvenile offenders. Today the House Select Committee on Juvenile Justice heard testimony from the acting secretary of S.R.S. who stated that "the two most reliable factors to predict future offender behavior are the age of the first offense and committing a second adjudicated offense. The younger the age of the first offense the more likely the child will commit additional offenses."

Truancy is the precursor to a wide array of problems with which this legislature is grappling. Your examination of this critical issue is timely and welcome. I have asked Bob Goodwin, coordinator of social services at Wichita Public Schools, to discuss the issue of truancy with you this afternoon.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2109

Testimony by:

Bob Goodwin
Coordinator, Social Services
Wichita Public Schools

Current System

Children 12 years and under reported to SRS

Truancy Unit

1 SRS Worker 5 WSU Students

40 Day Intervention

End of Semester

Children 13 and older reported to DA's Office

USD #259 Secretary prepares case for Juvenile Court

Cases referred to Juvenile Court

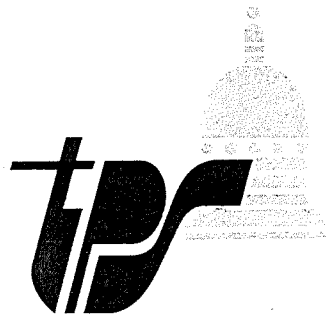
Next year there will be no USD #259 secretary

No cases will be referred for truancy

Home Schools

SRS Investigates no referrals filed for truancy

*House Education
Attachment 5
1-31-95*



January 30, 1995

To: The House Education Committee
Rep. Rochelle Chronister - Chairperson
Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas

From: *Preston Williams*
Preston R. Williams
School Social Worker
Eisenhower Middle School
Topeka, Kansas 66605

To The Committee:

Re: HB 2109 - The Question Of Juveniles
Who Are Suspected Of Being Truant From
School?

My name is Preston Williams and I am a school social worker for Eisenhower Middle School here in Topeka, Kansas. I chair a standing committee in our school that is called a Mental Health Team. This body of people consists of individual teacher representatives for both regular and special education programs. We are also represented by several guidance counselors, our school psychologist, our school nurse, and alternate between our building principal, and our vice - principal at these weekly meetings. We operate off a written agenda each week, with three guiding principles: "No - Fault", Consensus, and Collaboration.

The Mental Health Team's position on HB 2109 is that we support strongly the need to enforce the Kansas Compulsory Attendance Laws. We are not certain if our current law enforcement staff has either the work force or the necessary amount of time to provide consistent enforcement of this bill. We do know something about our concerns with regards to the truancy issues, as we have more than 40 students who have been officially determined to be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law at our middle school. Each of these students have been referred through the usual routes of agency networks reserved for truant filings, but no changes in the truant behavior of the student prevails.

There are several factors that our team believes contributes to the ever increasing chronicity of truant students over time. First, truant students know that our current system of officially declaring a student truant is a joke. They know that nothing is going to happen to them as a result of their not attending school.

It is possible for a student to not attend school three consecutive days in a quarter of school, or five cumulative days in a semester, and if their case would happen to be pursued into court, the chances are that the semester a/o the school year would have expired beforehand. Students now may be truant during one semester, improve their attendance enough to give the reflection of improving their attendance for the year, and then become truant again during the second semester. Our guidance counselors typically file and re - file truant cases on students repeatedly, but no court action seems to accompany those school - related actions. While a court bill of \$65.00 for the parent of the truant student might help deter some students from this type of school violation, to most it is a mute issue as most truant cases never make it to court proceedings on their own merit anyway. A student would have to had violated a civil code of miscreancy or delinquency before the truant petition would carry much weight in court. Thus, the truant kid would need to graduate to a misdemeanor or felony before we can officially intervene in the status offense of truancy.

Secondly, time is a factor in this issue of truancy. Most parents want their children in school, but if the primary a/o breadwinner parent in the home has to work outside the home, at the same time that the child has to be in school; then what do you do? You depend upon the child to get him/her to school, and you might call the child in to the school as an excused absence. This is particularly true if you know that the school will bug you at work about why your child is not in school. Over time, both the parent and child gets frustrated that the school is forcing them to do something they don't want to do: to go to school for the child, and to have to rearrange times and days of work for the parent to accommodate the child's school operating hours. In some cases, the parent simply moves the family to another school district, and the problems of truancy resurfaces again at a new location.

Historically, we have seen some changes from the past, in terms of how we dealt with truancies 12 - 15 years ago, and how we deal with this issue now. Years ago, with Mrs. Kay Macfarland sitting in as the judge for juvenile matters, she would treat truancy as seriously as she might for any other juvenile activity. Judge Macfarland would provide terse quips to each and every student who came before her, about the "at - risk" nature of being truant from school. She equated good school attendance with good citizenship. Mrs. Macfarland would try these cases in a timely manner, within one to two weeks upon receipt of the docket call.

We have also seen in the past 5 - 7 years, where our Topeka Public School District would issue colored coded attendance cards to students, and depending upon their individual circumstances, they would produce those cards on the streets to law enforcement officers when asked. If the student was not able to produce the appropriate card, that indicated that they could be absent from school with ~~out~~ official permission, and subsequently could be brought to school by the police officer. The parents of that student would then be notified by the school of the student's circumstances.

We have also seen in days gone by, where we have had truant officers go out to student's homes and check on their whereabouts. This was during a time when we had approximately 25,000 students or more in our school system. Our system today has less than 16,000 students in the Topeka Public School System, but have a ever increasing problem with truant students and shortfalls on available dollars for additional staff for this task.

We are also not certain about how attendance laws apply to "home schools".

There are some beginning signs that some students use the statement "I'm being home - schooled and that is why I'm out on the streets at this time of the day". This is not a adverse condition of being home schooled, but whether the same Kansas Laws For Attendance apply uniformly for home - schooled students as they do for more traditional schooling is a question I raise?

Given that we have a truancy system that is in badly need of repair, what can be done?

First, we need to address the miscommunication issues that exist between the schools, the court system, and SRS on behalf of truancy issues. We all are in the business of either educating children, supervising children in health, safety, and legal matters, etc. We must all pull together. That means that one of greatest obstacles exacerbating this difficulty or "Teaming Together" between agencies for children is Confidentiality. It use to be when there was a "Court Service Intake" process, that schools could directly refer to court service workers on truant cases. Then, a casemanager would be assigned through a social agency like the Kansas Children's Service League. That agency would get with SRS is necessary, and the truant child and family to address any outstanding problems connected with the identified problem - truancy. Once the problem had been resolved, then court services would ask the judge in juvenile court for either continuance on the case, supervised probation for a specified period of time, or termination of any furthur court action. If this problem would arise again, within whatever statutes of limitations the court system allowed, the truant student would be brought back before the court for stiffer penalties.

The key to all of this networking between agencies was to develop a treatment plan that the student and family could live with, and one that allowed the student to get to school on a consistent basis. (

Currently, we do not have any plan in place that allows for school, court, student, family, and SRS to work towards a mutual treatment plan. The court system doesn't often file on students being truant, from ages 13 and up. SRS can't release much information on their investigations as to why the truant student was absent from school, unless the parent signs a release of information form. In many cases, this option might not be pursued by the SRS worker, as they have large case loads, or, because the parent might refuse to consent to a release form. The parent may wish to keep the school out of the loop altogether, as it pertains to the truancy violation, and they are able to as it stands now.

Thus, you get frustrated SRS workers who keep hearing about the same kids all of the time. You get frustrated school officials who keep referring students to the court system and no action takes place. You get frustrated parents who need to keep their jobs and can't always oversee if their child gets to school or not on their own. You have frustrated court service workers who know what their case loads are like for more serious crimes against persons or property by juveniles, but aren't able to expedite the DA's office to file more on truant cases. In the end, nothing happens and the list of truant students continues to climb.

What we are in need of is a workable mechanism that allows the schools to report truancies, then to have the paperwork sent to the court system and processed in a timely manner, and then the judge to order the parent, student, court services worker or SRS worker (depending upon the age of the child), to court, along with a school counselor or school social worker to develop a treatment plan together. The treatment plan should be fair but consistent with the current Kansas Compulsory Attendance Law that says: all children between the ages of 7 and 16 must be in school. This law and it's consistent application and enforcement of it, must travel up and down the system, if the law is to be more than just a joke as it currently is. Thank You!

Eisenhower Middle School Mental Health Team



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 W. 10TH STREET / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Susan Chase Testimony Before
House Education Committee
Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Thank you, Madam Chairman. I am Susan Chase and I represent Kansas National Education Association. I am here to offer comments on HB 2109.

KNEA believes truancy is a problem that needs to be addressed. We are not naive enough to believe that learning can only happen within the four walls of the school building, but we also know that a very important body of knowledge is gained within those four walls and that if students are not attending school they lose out. We only offer comments on HB 2109 for two reasons. First, we believe that this is a very simplistic solution to a very complex problem. Students who do not attend school do so for various reasons, and to assume that picking them up and returning them to school will solve the problem is naive. We need to address the disease rather than the symptom.

Secondly, we are concerned about what will happen to the student when they are returned to the school. Obviously, the student does not want to be there. If the student is immediately placed back in the classroom, will the student be ready to learn or will they be a disruption to their own, as well as others, learning? Will the student receive appropriate interventions to address the cause of the learning? How will parents be involved in addressing the problem? Has consideration been given to the use of SRS or Juvenile Intake and Assessment in providing intervention. We are concerned that people will take this as a solution instead of an option in a comprehensive package that addresses the issue of student truancy.



Schools for Quality Education

Bluemont Hall Manhattan, KS 66506 (913) 532-5886

January 31, 1995

TO: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: HB 2109--LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ALLOWED TO
TAKE CHILD INTO TEMPORARY CUSTODY IF CHILD
IS SUPPOSED TO BE IN SCHOOL; TAKE CHILD TO
SCHOOL OR HOME

FROM: SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

I am Jacque Oakes representing Schools For Quality Education, an organization of 113 small school districts.

We are submitting written testimony in favor of HB 2109, which allows a law enforcement officer to temporarily detain and assume temporary custody of any child that should be in school, during school hours who is found away from home or school without a valid excuse. The child would be delivered to the schools, a designated truancy location, or the child's parents or custodian.

We believe this would be extremely helpful to school officials who are always concerned with a child's well being. This would ensure that a child would be returned to school in a quick and safe manner.

Thank you for your interest and attention to HB 2109.

"Rural is Quality"

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Attachment 8
1-31-95*



MEMBERSHIP ROSTER**



NORTHWEST REGION

- 103 Cheylin
- *200 Greeley County
- 212 Northern Valley
- 241 Wallace County
- 242 Weskan
- 274 Oakley
- 275 Triplains-Winona
- 280 West Graham-Morland
- 291 Grinnell
- 292 Wheatland
- 293 Quinter
- 294 Oberlin
- 301 Nes Tre La Go
- 302 Smoky Hill-Ransom
- 304 Bazine
- *314 Brewster
- 316 Golden Plains
- 318 Atwood
- 337 Royal Valley
- *467 Leoti
- 468 Healy

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

- 254 Barber County
- 255 South Barber
- 300 Comanche County
- 311 Pretty Prairie
- 332 Cunningham
- 354 Claflin
- 355 Ellinwood
- *357 Belle Plaine
- 358 Oxford
- 359 Argonia
- 376 Sterling
- 411 Goessel
- *423 Moundridge
- 424 Mullinville
- 438 Skyline
- 474 Haviland
- 496 Pawnee Heights
- 509 South Haven
- 511 Attica

NORTHEAST REGION

- 221 North Central-Haddam
- 222 Washington
- 223 Barnes
- *224 Clifton-Clyde
- 321 Kaw Valley
- 329 Mill Creek Valley-Alma
- *339 Jefferson County
- 378 Riley County
- 380 Vermillion
- 384 Blue Valley
- *393 Solomon
- 430 South Brown County
- *488 Axtell-Bern-Summerfield
- 498 Valley Heights

SOUTHEAST REGION

- 244 Burlington
- 245 LeRoy-Gridley
- 247 Cherokee
- 252 Southern Lyon County
- 256 Marmaton Valley
- 258 Humboldt
- *284 Chase County
- 286 Chautauqua Co.-Sedan
- 287 West Franklin
- 362 Prairie View
- 366 Yates Center
- 387 Altoona-Midway
- 390 Hamilton
- 397 Centre
- 398 Peabody-Burns
- 404 Riverton
- 436 Caney Valley
- *447 Cherryvale
- 462 Central
- 463 Udall
- 471 Dexter
- 479 Crest-Kincaid
- 492 Flinthills
- 508 Baxter Springs

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

- 104 White Rock-Esbon
- 239 North Ottawa County
- *240 Twin Valley
- 269 Palco
- 270 Plainville
- 271 Stockton
- 273 Beloit
- 278 Mankato
- 307 Ell-Saline
- 324 Eastern Heights
- 326 Logan
- 395 LaCrosse
- 399 Paradise-Natoma
- 403 Otis-Bison
- 432 Victoria
- *455 Hillcrest

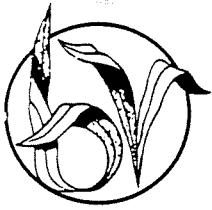
SOUTHWEST REGION

- 209 Moscow
- 210 Hugoton
- 214 Ulysses
- 215 Lakin
- *216 Deerfield
- 217 Rolla
- 218 Elkhart
- 219 Minneola
- 220 Ashland
- 225 Fowler
- 228 Hanston
- 374 Sublette
- *381 Spearville
- 452 Stanton
- 459 Bucklin
- 476 Copeland
- 477 Ingalls
- 494 Syracuse
- *507 Satanta

*Denotes new members

**Current as of November 28, 1994

For more information contact:
 Schools for Quality Education Inc.
 124 Bluemont Hall
 Kansas State University
 Manhattan, KS 66506
 (913)532-5886.



Blue Valley
Schools
"growing with pride"

January 30, 1995

The Honorable Rochelle Chronister
Representative, 13th District
Room 446-N, State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

MISREPRESENTATION OF BLUE VALLEY TESTING PROGRAM

I have been informed that the Kansas Education Watch Network has made available copies of a document represented to be characteristic of human growth and development testing adopted and utilized by the Blue Valley School District. I want to take this opportunity to set the record straight regarding the document and district procedures.

The Blue Valley School District does use local testing to assure a consistent, quality educational program among our many schools. The health test disseminated is a misrepresentation of that effort. During the 1991-92 school year, parents were involved in the establishment of a curriculum to teach human growth and development subject matter at various grade levels. A test was developed by district personnel in 1992-93 to determine the effectiveness of the instructional program. The first year of any test is considered a pilot year by district staff. After the test was administrated in two selected schools and an evaluation of the results of those tests were considered, the specific questions were dropped prior to any subsequent testing program.

These questions were never adopted and were never utilized in a district-wide testing program. They were in fact, piloted, evaluated and edited out of our testing program as a result of that evaluation. I believe this is appropriate procedure for districts to use in developing testing materials. Curriculum should be developed in conjunction with parental input. Tests should be piloted and they should be evaluated, and if found to be inappropriate, they should not be adopted. To purport

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Attachment 9*

1-31-95

Office of the Superintendent

The Honorable Rochelle Chronister
January 30, 1995
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that this test is in current use or was ever in district-wide use is inaccurate and a misrepresentation of the instructional programs and testing programs available to the students in Blue Valley.

If you have any questions or additional concerns in this regard, I would be pleased to address them.



DR. DAVID L. BENSON
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

dlh

pc: Senator Dave Kerr
Senator Barbara Lawrence
Members, State Board of Education