

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 A.M. on January 24, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Dale Swenson- excused
Jim Yonally- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sandra Hazlett - Kansas Dept. Of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Dept. of Education
Dr. Alexa Posny, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Dept. of Education

The Chair spoke to the Committee regarding HB 2134, a bill regarding the Kansas State High School Athletic Association, (KSHSAA), that was heard during the 2005 session. She reminded them that the KSHSAA Board had said this issue would be heard and voted on by the Board and this had been done.

Sandra Hazlett spoke to the Committee regarding tracking school records transfer for Kansas foster children. (Attachment 1).

Questions and answers followed.

Speaking briefly on the subject was Dale Dennis who answered questions of the Committee.

Also appearing before the Committee was Alexa Posny who explained the program transferred to SRS from the Education Department to track foster children school records. (Attachments 2 and 3).

A motion was made by Representative Storm and seconded by Representative Colloton to introduce a bill that would return to federal language in regard to IDEA.

A motion was made by Representative Storm and seconded by Representative Colloton to introduce a bill that would set qualifications and credentials for the State Education Commissioner. The motions passed on voice votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2005.

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary J. Daniels, Secretary
For additional information contact:

House Education Committee
January 24, 2006

**Tracking School Records Transfer
for
Kansas Foster Children**

Integrated Service Delivery
Sandra Hazlett
785-368-6448

Public and Governmental Services Division
Kyle Kessler, Director of Legislative and Media Affairs

Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison, 6th Floor North
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1570
phone: 785.296.3271
fax: 785.296.4685
www.srskansas.org

House Education Committee
Date: 1-24-06
Attachment # /

**Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Gary J. Daniels, Secretary**

House Education Committee
January 24, 2006

**Tracking School Records Transfer
for
Kansas Foster Children**

Chair Decker and members of the committee, I am Sandra Hazlett, Director of Children and Family Services for SRS. I come before you today concerning the tracking of school records as required by HB 2331.

Attached you will find two charts delineating statistics about transfer of school records for children receiving foster care services. We are disappointed that despite considerable effort, we are unable to provide better information. The data are just too limited to be helpful. Please be assured that efforts continue and the report due December, 2006 should be much improved.

Schools did not have historical data nor was there a data system established by anyone to track the precise information requested for this report. Without historical data, the focus became the upcoming school year. Efforts began with the August, 2005 enrollment to collect data by hand from each school district as each child was enrolled for the 2005/2006 school year.

The tracking system began with a form provided to each receiving school upon enrollment. The receiving school was asked to document the date records were requested from the sending school and the date records were received. The forms were then returned to SRS for entry into a central database. Unfortunately, this effort has produced, at best, an incomplete picture. We must do better and are considering several options.

The administration of the database maintained by Northeast Kansas Education Service Center for electronic transfer and maintenance of Education Enrollment Information Form (EEIF) data has been transferred from the Department of Education to SRS. We are exploring whether the EEIF could be modified and this database used for tracking the number of days for education records to follow the child. We will certainly be able to track electronically when a child changes schools. Currently we monitor school moves via case reads.

In addition we will continue to explore with the Department of Education how SRS might be more effective in collecting the necessary data. We understand students now have individual identifying numbers and the system has the capability to track movement of students using these numbers. It is hoped this will be helpful if only in verifying the information gathered separately.

Additionally, SRS is planning to issue a RFP (request for proposals) for an educational ombudsman. This consultant would work with the schools, Department of Education, youth, social service staff, and others to assure coordination, identify problems and implement solutions for the variety of educational challenges facing children who are or have been in foster care. While the primary

purpose of this position is to solve identified questions and not data collection, the data collection is likely to be improved as relationships are developed and enhanced.

I respectfully request your patience with this ongoing process and am ready to stand for questions.

