



**Written testimony in support of HB 2485, enrollment calculation
House K-12 Education Budget Committee**

Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools USD 233

January 22, 2024

Chair Williams and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2485, a bill that would allow districts to utilize current or preceding year enrollment for the purpose of calculating funding.

Olathe Public Schools currently serves 28,962 students in 51 attendance centers throughout the district. We are the second largest school district in the state, and before the pandemic, the district experienced nearly 50 continuous years of enrollment growth. That enrollment growth has largely been attributable to the population increases that accompany an expanding job market and additional housing opportunities within the district boundaries.

Although enrollment growth has slowed for our district, we are mindful that the Olathe community and surrounding region are beginning to see the economy rebound post-pandemic. We know that as existing businesses expand and new businesses re-locate to our area, there is the potential for increased enrollment. Additionally, the implementation of our new open enrollment policy could lead to an increase in the number of students we serve. We believe that modifying the statute to allow for more timely counts will better assist us provide programs and services for all students.

As a district, we remain committed to providing the high-quality programs and services our students, families and businesses expect. Even with the enrollment increases our district has experienced and the accompanying changes in the composition of our student population, we have remained a district known for excellent student results, including high graduation rates, high ACT and SAT scores, and a high percentage of students pursuing post-secondary education. This is possible because we allocate resources appropriately based on projected enrollment growth and the needs of our students.

As you consider this legislation and other policy issues this session, know that Olathe Public Schools remains committed to working with you to support Kansas students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at byeagerec@olatheschools.org or (913) 780-8132.