



February 1, 2024

**Written Testimony:** HB2612

**Submitted by:** Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA)

Chairperson Williams and K-12 Education Budget Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA) appreciates your time to consider our concerns on HB2612 as outlined in this written testimony. HB2612 would require school districts to be in compliance with all state laws, rules and regulations in order to be accredited. HB2612 will also require the Kansas State Board of Education to establish a process to challenge determinations of such compliance.

In review of this bill, it would appear that school districts are currently not following established laws, rules and regulations. In reality, every Kansas school district and school makes a good faith effort to be in compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations and rules. A system of identifying and correcting noncompliance is already in place within the KESA accreditation process as well as other KSDE programs. Therefore, KASEA opposes HB2612 as it is unnecessary and would create confusion rather than clarity.

There is a great deal of ambiguity in HB2612 about what it means to be in compliance with ALL state laws, regulations and rules. For example, in IDEA alone, there are over 700 compliance components in each IEP. While in most instances, compliance is easy to identify and correct, some laws and regulations are so complex that determining compliance and correcting is a very difficult and tedious process. School accreditation is more than a series of numbers on a report or a disagreement on how dollars should be used. Currently when noncompliance is identified by KSDE, schools and districts are provided the opportunity to review and make necessary changes while KSDE provides guidance and support prior to implementing a corrective action plan. Adding extensive duties to KSDE staff will only diminish the fidelity of their work.

Keep in mind, accreditation affects the community, as well each student and school district. Kansas schools are the cornerstone of many Kansas communities. Taking a hardline to accreditation based on minor infractions or procedural errors, which can be quickly remedied, could have a dire impact on property values in our Kansas communities.



In summary, the schools are governed by the State School Board and LOCALLY elected boards of education. Please allow our local boards and KSDE to monitor school compliance with federal and state laws, regulations and rules.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

**Patty Carter, KASEA Legislative Committee Chair**

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