



COFFEYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE

DR. CRAIG A. CORRELL
615 Ellis
Coffeyville, Kansas 67337
www.usd445.org
Thursday, February 1, 24

Honorable Chairperson Williams and Members of the K-12 Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my written testimony on HB2612. While I respect the concerns addressed in the bill, I believe its proposed approach raises concerns and may not be the most effective solution.

1. Importance of State Board of Education's Role:

- School accreditation is a complex process involving more than numerical data. It encompasses comprehensive evaluations of student outcomes, program effectiveness, and adherence to established laws and regulations.
- The State Board of Education, with its expertise and dedicated staff, is well-positioned to conduct these evaluations and guide districts towards improvement.

2. Accreditation as a Supportive Tool:

- When districts fall short of expectations, the current accreditation process provides valuable feedback and assistance from the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE). This collaborative approach promotes improvement and ensures student success, rather than using accreditation as a punitive measure.

3. Concerns Regarding State Audits:

- While ensuring compliance is crucial, relying solely on state audits could be problematic. Auditors primarily analyze financial data, potentially overlooking the nuances and context behind certain situations.
- Overburdening KSDE with additional audits could hinder their core function of supporting and guiding school districts.

USD #445 Mission Statement

Building on our culturally diverse community, USD 445 will prepare all students for life-long learning by providing resources for a comprehensive quality education in a safe environment that promotes high academic achievement and responsible citizenship in a global society.



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4. Legislative Compliance & Resource Allocation:

- While emphasizing schools' compliance with laws, it's important to acknowledge the legislature's own obligation to fully fund education, including special education. Inconsistencies in funding create challenges for schools and can lead to discrepancies in interpreting legal requirements.

5. Empowering Local Boards:

- Locally elected school boards play a vital role in overseeing daily operations and addressing potential compliance issues within their districts. Replacing this system with external controls would hinder local accountability and responsiveness.

In conclusion, HB2612's intended goal of ensuring compliance is important. However, I urge the committee to consider alternative approaches that leverage the expertise of the State Board of Education, maintain a collaborative approach to improvement, and avoid placing undue burdens on both schools and KSDE.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Craig A. Correll
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Coffeyville Public Schools

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