



Kansas PTA
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February 1, 2024

Written Only Testimony to House K-12 Budget Committee

Honorable Chair, Representative Kristey Williams

Committee Assistant, K.12.Budget@house.ks.gov, 785-296-3971

Room 286-N, State Capitol Building

Opposed [House Bill 2612](#) – a redundant and punitive accreditation bill.

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2024, 3:30 PM Room 546-S

Honorable Chair Williams and Committee Members,

The Kansas PTA is comprised of volunteers, many of whom have full time jobs, family obligations and community service commitments. This testimony will be brief, given the very short turn-around time required, yet again. However, our brevity should not be conflated with our strong opposition to HB 2612.

This bill on school accreditation, at best does nothing to help Kansas kids, and is more likely to disrupt learning and harm Kansas public school students along with their communities. The underlying assumptions and punitive approach of this bill are in opposition to the Kansas PTA mission and [Standing Positions and Legislative Priorities](#).

- Nearly 90% of all Kansas students and parents rely on a robust public education system that is responsive to the ever-changing demands on high school graduates.
- The Kansas public school system is the only institution dedicated to providing a quality education to 500,000 Kansas child, regardless of their unique needs and the needs of the community – and under the limitations of the level of adequacy and equity with which the Kansas legislature chooses to allocate state aid.
- Compliance is a component of the KSDE and SBOE accreditation requirements. KSDE has a comprehensive, preventive approach to support a school district that may be struggling well before a complete loss of accreditation would be warranted.
- Public school superintendents, 2,000 elected school board members and their professional associations (e.g., KASB, USA|KS) are intentional about remaining in compliance with state law and regulations.

- KASB and big districts hire attorneys to monitor changes in state laws and regulations and craft policies and procedures to remain in compliance with – for what we can only estimate must number in the hundreds if not thousands!
- This bill proposes a punitive, high stakes approach that places students and communities at risk. The language in the bill is recklessly vague: lines 34-35 “Any school district not in compliance with such laws and rules and regulations shall not be accredited.”
- The Kansas State Board of Education has authority over educational policy, such as accreditation, under Article VI of the Kansas Constitution. Kansas students are best served following the recommendations of the dedicated educational professionals at KSDE.
- The performance of Kansas public schools continues to beat the odds. The 2022-2023 school year is the new baseline. We can expect to see improvement from this point, with the final year of restoration to state aid for general education in 2023, with the disruptions of the global pandemic diminished, and with the promise of full state funding for special education at the statutory 92% of excess costs.

Kansas PTA strongly urges members of this committee to vote NO on this punitive bill. Thank you for your consideration.

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Cc: Devin Wilson, VP of Advocacy
 Rachel Russell, Legislative Liaison
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THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child’s potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.