



**Oral Neutral Testimony on
HB 2320, relating to school districts and children in DCF custody
House K-12 Education Budget Committee**

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February 11, 2026

Chair Goetz and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2320.

KASB proudly represents over 330 local boards of education, special education interlocals, community colleges, and technical colleges across Kansas. Our member boards include more than 2000 locally elected officials who are responsible for governing public education and ensuring compliance with state and federal law while stewarding limited state and local resources.

KASB's member-adopted policy platforms urge the Legislature to help Kansas students prepare for postsecondary success by strengthening "collaboration among agencies and the Legislature to support students in foster care or experiencing homelessness." At the same time, our members urge the legislature to "generally oppose unfunded mandates" that shift new responsibilities and costs to local school districts without clear funding mechanisms or implementation guidance.

With those policies in mind, KASB offers the following observations and concerns for the committee's consideration as it evaluates HB 2320.

Aggressive Records-Transfer Timeline

HB 2320 requires that student records be transferred at the same time as a placement change or, at the latest, within two business days of notice.

School boards fully support the goal of minimizing educational disruption for students who experience placement changes. However, the two-business-day deadline raises practical and legal concerns for districts responsible for compliance.

Placement changes often occur outside of normal school operating conditions, including over weekends, during school breaks, or when key administrative or special education staff are



unavailable. In those circumstances, meeting a rigid two-business-day deadline may not be feasible despite good-faith efforts by district staff.

Failure to meet the statutory deadline could expose districts to state complaints, due process claims, or audit findings. KASB encourages the committee to consider whether added flexibility or clarification around the records-transfer timeline would better balance urgency with accuracy and compliance.

Transportation Without Clear Direction on Decision-Making and Funding

HB 2320 expands transportation responsibilities when the Department for Children and Families (DCF) determines that it is in a child's best interests to maintain a child's enrollment in the school of origin following a placement change, or to move the child to a new district or a different school in the same district, following a placement change.

While districts support maintaining educational stability for students in foster care, the bill offers limited guidance on how transportation decisions will be made or how associated costs will be allocated. Under the bill, transportation costs may be paid by DCF, paid by the school district, or shared between the two, but no standards, formulas, or caps are provided.

From a governance and budgeting perspective, this lack of clarity creates uncertainty for school boards. Transportation distances may be significant, particularly in rural areas, and the bill requires consideration of extracurricular schedules, individualized student needs, and traffic patterns, all of which add complexity and potential cost.

Without a clear reimbursement mechanism or dedicated funding, districts may face unpredictable and escalating transportation expenses. The absence of an explicit dispute-resolution process also raises concerns about how disagreements between districts and DCF would be resolved if parties cannot agree on cost-sharing or logistics.

KASB respectfully notes that clearer statutory guidance on funding responsibility and decision-making authority would reduce conflict and improve implementation.

Immediate Enrollment Without Student Records

HB 2320 prohibits districts from delaying enrollment or attendance when a child's placement changes, even if the receiving district does not yet have the student's educational records.

While districts understand and support immediate access to education, enrolling and serving students without access to prior records presents challenges. Schools may be unaware of a student's special education status, behavioral intervention plans, medical needs, or safety considerations at the time of enrollment.



As a result, administrators and educators must make placement and service decisions with incomplete information, increasing liability risks and placing more strain on staff. There may also be safety implications for the student and others if critical information is unavailable.

Districts work in good faith to support students in these circumstances, but the committee should be aware of the operational risks created by this requirement.

Questions for the Committee's Consideration

In closing, KASB respectfully asks the committee to consider the following questions as it deliberates HB 2320:

- Can the records-transfer deadline be made more flexible to ensure accuracy and compliance?
- Will the state provide dedicated funding to support transportation obligations created by the bill?
- How will disputes between school districts and DCF about transportation, costs, or implementation be resolved?
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KASB appreciates the committee's focus on supporting vulnerable students and stands ready to work with legislators to ensure that HB 2320 can be implemented in a way that is effective, collaborative, and sustainable for Kansas school districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony.

Thank you.

*KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools.
We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.*