



SHAWNEE MISSION

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Opponent Written Testimony on Senate Bill 49
Senate Education Committee
February 6, 2025
Dr. Michael Schumacher
Superintendent, Shawnee Mission School District

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee:

The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is opposed to Senate Bill 49. We're focused on educating students and efficiently managing the public resources from the State and our local taxpayers. The provisions of Senate Bill 49 will have impacts contrary to efficiency and the management of our resources

Requiring individual board members to actually "conduct" needs assessments is impossible for a district our size, given the number of schools and the complexity of the task. Such a requirement would discourage qualified residents from considering serving on a school board. All staff in the district work for the superintendent, who reports to the Board, so having staff conduct the needs assessment is the logical and appropriate way to produce the assessments.

The bill also contains the following: "Any time moneys are allocated to a fund or existing moneys are reallocated from one fund to another fund, such allocation or reallocation shall be identified in the budget and summary."

In a budget as large as Shawnee Mission's, this is a daunting task requiring massive staff engagement, and we do not see the benefit of unnecessary documentation of standard accounting and reporting procedures. Senate Bill 49 would require significant resources, money that would be better spent educating children.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent
Shawnee Mission School District
913-993-6200