

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 361

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

SB 361, as amended, would exempt foreign exchange students from public school district open-enrollment lotteries and authorize those students to enroll in the public school district in which their host family resides.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Titus.

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 3, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Starnes, a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), and a former state senator. The proponents generally stated the bill would address timing issues between school district open-enrollment lotteries and assignment and approval processes for foreign exchange students by exempting them from the lottery and treating them as residents of their host family's school district. The proponents noted that last session's budget bill contained a proviso with provisions similar to the bill.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

No other testimony was provided.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing on March 10, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Starnes, a former state senator, and a representative of AFS Heartland. The proponents generally stated the bill would address unintended consequences of changes the 2024 Legislature made to open enrollment law and would codify proviso language from the 2025 Legislature's budget bill.

Written-only testimony was provided by KASB.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to be effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the State Department of Education indicated that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Education; K-12 education; public schools; open enrollment; foreign exchange students