

**House Education Budget Committee**  
**On**  
**House Bill 2215**  
**submitted by**  
**Roger W. (Bill) Lowry, Superintendent, Hoisington USD #431, a**  
**member of Schools for Quality Education**

Chairman Cassidy and committee members. As you review House Bill 2215 we would like to submit our reasons to support passage of this bill.

We are in favor of changing the distance from an attendance center that a student lives back to ten miles from the current 2.5 miles. This will keep School District boundaries more legitimate and reduce student recruiting to increase student enrollment, which in turn increases the General fund budget and also the local option budget. When times are desperate and money tight, some Districts may turn to questionable means in order to recruit students to increase enrollment.

Another reason we support the return to the 10 mile rule is that many schools have consolidated and many more will consolidate using the incentive program that is currently in place that allows schools to maintain their current budget for 5 years despite enrollment change or reduction in BSAPP. When consolidation occurs students and parents are upset when attendance centers are closed and many students transfer to other Districts. This means that the State is paying for those students twice each year during the 5 year incentive program.

The Board of Education of my school district has passed a resolution that we will not extend out transportation boundaries any more then in the past, even with the 2.5-mile change in the law. We feel this sends the message to parents that they will need to provide transportation for their students if they want to attend USD #431 if they are not in our current transportation boundary. We feel this will encourage students to stay in their home School Districts.

We would ask that you pass House Bill 2215 as it will have a positive effect for School Districts and the State budget.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Bill Lowry