



KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

STATEWIDE RESOURCES ON DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS

www.KSSDB.org

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Testimony--SB 444

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Kansas School for the Deaf

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As we all know language is a critical skill needed to attain literacy for all students including children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH). Overwhelming brain research indicates that the best time to learn language starts at birth, and the most critical age for language development ranges from birth through age 8. Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) has long advocated for early language for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH), and recognizes the statewide need for appropriate language assessments. These may be different for each student, but must be available and consistent for every child birth through age 8.

We believe that all stakeholders should be involved in improving the education of children who are D/HH, and in equal access to accurate assessments leading to appropriate instructional delivery and design, no matter what the modality. The focus needs to be on the individual child.

Kansas Statute 76001a requires that KSD be under the supervision of the State Board of Education. We will be discussing this issue with the State Board of Education this week. This discussion will include the critical need to continue our collaborative relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders from parents, other state agencies, associations and programs, and members of the Deaf community.

KSD asks that SB 444 be tabled and the issue be referred to the State Board of Education.



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