



February 10, 2017

TO: Senate Education Committee

- My name is Tom Davis and I am the Headmaster of Wichita Collegiate School.
- I am speaking solely on behalf of Wichita Collegiate School regarding SB145.
- I am speaking in opposition to amending statute K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 72-130 as proposed.
- KSHSAA is a voluntary association of which Collegiate has been a member for 30 years.
- We value our membership in KSHSAA and have and will abide by its rules of membership.
- For the entire history of KSHSAA, schools have been classified by their enrollment of student attendance, as defined in Section 1, paragraph (5) of the statute.
- By using enrollment as the sole parameter to classify schools, it assures that schools compete with other schools of similar size.
- By using enrollment as the sole parameter, KSHSAA does not discriminate among schools by geographical location or type of school.
- Member High Schools in KSHSAA range in size from 27 students to 1,726 students.
- Removal from the statute of these 4 words (“according to student attendance”) opens the door for KSHSAA to incorporate and adopt discriminatory and unfair classification systems, which are detrimental to students.
- There is a movement afoot within KSHSAA to impose a “success penalty” on schools with consistently strong programs, mostly measured by football and basketball records.
- This success penalty, if enacted, forces smaller school to be pushed into competing against larger and larger schools until they become consistent losers. This is unsafe, unhealthy and unfair to students who are dedicated to doing their best in their particular activity. And what is the message to our youth? “If successful, you are penalized.” The irony of this proposal is that it is the next year’s students who are penalized for the previous year’s success. This is a sad statement to our youth and unfair to the upcoming classes of students.
- Another suggested reclassification effort is to treat public schools differently from non-public schools. This system proposes to count the enrollment at non-public schools at a multiplier of up to 1.6 times the actual head count, again forcing smaller non-public schools to compete against much larger schools. This penalty is discriminatory towards students solely because they attend a non-public school.
- These are just two examples of the potential types of changes that could be implemented if the student attendance requirement is dropped from the statute.
- In the past, KSHSAA has conducted studies within the association to evaluate different ways of classifying the schools, but it has always resulted in leaving the “student attendance” system intact.
- I am asking that this amendment be defeated in committee and that the statute remain as currently written.
- Thank you for your consideration.