

Representative Steve Huebert, Proponent of HB2466 January 25, 2022

HB2466, the PACK bill, Promoting Advancement in Computer Science, supports broader computer science classes in K-12 schools throughout Kansas. As Andy Schlapp, Executive Director to the Board of Trustees at Wichita State University put it, “70% of all new jobs require computer science skills.” Schlapp compared the present shift into digital technology to the invention of the printing press. The present school system has been developed for a different time period. We must shift to digital literacy.

The short-term goal is to provide computer science classes in every school district. The long-term goal is to have computer science credits be part of every Kansas student’s education for graduation. Urban areas are reaching 75% levels of offering classes to students, but in rural areas it can be difficult to find teachers for these skills. To support this, **HB2466** offers \$1 million to local school districts and \$1 million to the Kansas colleges that train teachers with the express purpose of supporting this vital shift in education.

Many state organizations support preparing students with crucial job skills in digital technology. The Kansas State Board of Education has created a task force and is fully in support of catching up with the national trend towards preparing students for the real world of employment. They have hired a full-time coordinator, Dr. Stephen King, to work with local school districts. The legislature can help with this visible bill. We can work together.

HB2466 will continue the changing landscape of Kansas school children learning to be at ease with technology and confident with their understanding of the science behind our new world.