



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3203
www.ksde.org

Janet Waugh District 1	Melanie Haas District 2	Michelle Dombrosky District 3	Ann E. Mah District 4	Jean Clifford District 5
Dr. Deena Horst District 6	Ben Jones District 7	Betty Arnold District 8	Jim Porter District 9	Jim McNiece District 10

Written Proponent Testimony

SB 144 – Relating to the Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act and High-Density At-Risk Student Weighting

Presented to the Senate Education Committee
Friday, Feb. 19, 2021

By
Deena Horst and Ben Jones, Legislative Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Madam Chairperson Baumgardner, Vice Chairperson Erickson, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the State Board of Education in support of SB 144.

As mentioned previously, the State Board of Education, in December, by general consensus, established positions on existing and potential legislative issues of educational interest. One of those positions addresses the fact that the State Board of Education “supports the reinstatement of high-density at-risk weighting.”

SB 144 removes the sunset provision in the law authorizing the High-Density At-Risk Student Weighting. The State Board of Education believes that those districts with large numbers of at-risk students should receive additional funds through High-Density At-Risk Student Weighting. Such funds allow such districts to hire additional staff to work with those students ... giving them a greater opportunity to become successful. It also allows them to purchase programs and services which are specifically designed to assist students who experience high levels of poverty.

Thank you for your support of at-risk students.