



STEPHEN LINKOUS
CHIEF OF STAFF

February 16, 2022

Written Testimony In-Opposition to SB 496

Submitted by Stephen Linkous, Chief of Staff, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

Dear Chairperson Baumgardner and members of the committee:

SB 496 will have a significant impact on the use of the budget dollars that are used to meet the needs of our students and families. The shifting of funds from the classroom in order to meet the administrative requirements of this bill will have a direct impact on the resources available to provide learning opportunities. This will manifest through the impact to personnel, curriculum training that will be available to our school and district staff.

SB 496 will limit the ability for teachers to plan to meet the unique needs of the students and schools they serve. Teachers often long term plan their materials with alignment to state standards to meet student needs. They have to make instructional adjustments in class or from day to day in order to meet students' individual learning needs. SB 496 would limit their ability to make these types of educational adjustments that meet the needs of English Language Learners, Special Education students and other groups who need long-term planning and those adjustments needed when learning data is reviewed to adapt current and future learning needs. SB 496 would also impede the ability to plan for, and deliver, the professional development staff as they make the adjustments needed to meet student needs.

Lastly, parents already are part of curriculum processes in our school districts. When districts adopt new curriculums teachers, board of education members, parents and other staff and community have the right to come in and give their opinion on what is the best curriculum for our students. Additionally, parents have the right to contact members of the Board of Education in order to discuss their concerns and can make those concerns through individual conversations public comments. In closing, this dialogue is most effective at the local level as it creates community and a shared vision.

As you consider SB 496, please understand the impact this would have to the educational process for districts all over the state of Kansas.