



Dear House Education Committee members,

My name is Gaby White and I am the principal at Wichita Collegiate School, a private school in Wichita. I want to start by thanking the members of the committee for taking the time to visit with all of us so we can discuss our views and the potential impact of the multiplier in our schools.

I would like to share some information to familiarize you with my school. Our high school currently has 255 students. Our students participate in multiple sports that fall under the KSHSAA umbrella. As we examined the past five years, we have had incredible success in girls tennis winning state every year and winning state in boys tennis three of the past five years. Besides tennis, the only other athletic team state championship we have won was in baseball last spring.

A few things to consider when looking at these championships:

- We have had the same head tennis coach for over thirty five years. He does not just coach during the year, but has built a successful summer program where kids learn to play tennis consistently from the time they are very young.
- We live in an urban area that provides many opportunities to play tennis at a high level year around.
- In regards to baseball, last year's state win was our first since 2001.

The current proposal for the multiplier would be applied to all our athletic activities based on the success of our tennis program. Tennis state competition involves only 6 student athletes per season. This means that the success of 12 students in a school year, or 4.7% of our student body, will be responsible for the application of the multiplier on all other activities we participate in. Here are some current highlights about a few of our other programs:

- Our girls basketball program, including both JV and Varsity, last year was composed of a team of 9 girls. This year we have a program of 11 girls. They have won 2 varsity games since the start of the 2021-22 season.
- In the past five years our volleyball team has only made it past the first round of substate one time and that time they lost in the second round.
- We are currently the smallest school by student population in our football classification.

All the information above relates specifically to Wichita Collegiate School, but I would like to mention some general information about athletics and the multiplier effect:

- Enrollment has always been how classifications have been done by KSHSAA. There are many reasons for this including safety, fairness, and leveling of the playing field. The addition of the multiplier across all activities goes against the history of athletic classification in our state.

- We have heard the accusations that the success of private schools is due to recruitment. In Kansas we are fortunate to have KSHSSA who provides oversight of athletics and activities to member schools. KSHSSA's oversight includes making sure member schools are following the guidelines KSHSSA has established. Failure to follow these rules results in investigations and consequences when necessary. KSHSSA takes this responsibility very seriously and an additional layer of oversight seems redundant.
- There are multiple public schools within our area and in other urban areas with an equal or greater success rate to our and other private schools. Vype, local, and state media celebrate their successes and describe these schools as exceptional communities whose hard work and dedication should be commended.

As a school, we are proud of who we are and the high standards we set for our student body academically and athletically. Our students, like their counterparts in public school, work hard to better themselves, to grow, and to meet the goals set by their coaches and school. I cannot fathom a rule in which we tell these students that their hard work is not equal to those students in public schools and that being great at something should be punished simply because of the school they attend. This notion not only will jeopardize the safety of our athletes as they compete with schools almost twice our size, but it sends the message that excellence is not equal. This is fundamentally wrong with what this country has always stood for. There is no other field in this country where negative consequences for success become the norm.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to speak at the public forum. I also hope that this committee looks carefully at the consequences that the multiplier effect will have on schools and their athletes. It will jeopardize the safety of students and the viability of programs. Most importantly, it will send a message of inequality to the work and effort put forth by these young men and women. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Warmly,
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