



**House K-12 Education Budget Committee  
Testimony on HB 2697**

Presented by John Allison, Superintendent  
Thursday, March 8, 2018

Chairman Patton and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity provide testimony **on HB 2697**, a bill amending the transportation formula for students living at least 2.5 miles from their education center.

The *Legislative Post Audit Report on K-12 Transportation Funding* (December 2017) noted that districts receive less funding than it costs to transport students and that districts are impacted differently based on a number of variables. Olathe Public Schools appreciates that this committee is considering one of their recommendations – increasing the comparative cost ratio for students living more than 2.5 miles from their attendance center from 2.8 to 5.0.

Our district's total headcount for the 2017-2018 academic year is 30,054 students and of that number, approximately 15 percent of our students (4,500) live more than 2.5 miles from their education center. Nearly 3,000 of those students utilize transportation services provided by the district. We believe the change in HB 2697 more accurately reflects the district's costs for providing transportation services to those students.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Olathe Public Schools transferred approximately \$1.8 million from the general operating budget to cover transportation costs not funded by the state. Every additional dollar the state spends on transportation allows the district to direct general operating dollars to student learning and support services.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2697; this is a good step toward addressing the actual costs associated with school transportation services.

The Olathe Board of Education urges your support of HB 2561. If you have any questions, please contact John Allison at (913) 780-8022 or John Hutchison at (913) 780-8034.