



Oral opponent testimony on HB 2573, requiring students to take a civics test to receive a high school diploma


By Leah Fliter, Advocacy and Outreach Specialist, KASB

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Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today as an opponent of HB 2573. Our legislative policies, reaffirmed by our Delegate Assembly on December 8, 2019, state that a district’s curriculum should be established by the local board of education, not state statute, as long as the district meets state accreditation requirements.

Additionally, students in the state’s public high schools are already required to take three units of history and government in order to graduate. As a result, this bill is unnecessary, duplicative and intrudes on the State Board of Education’s constitutional authority over public schools. See below:



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| <p>What are the minimum high school graduation requirements in Kansas?</p> <p>Each local board of education must have a written policy specifying that students are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. <i>The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject.</i> ▪ Three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography ▪ Three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at | <p>Ce gr</p> <p>Di: re: mi: cu: bir: re: in: on</p> <p>Lo: nu: the: an: st: pr: the: st:</p> <p>Lo: gh: dis: thi:</p> |
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We need only look to the numerous school tours of this beautiful Statehouse to see Kansas civics education in action. And only two weeks ago, students from Seaman High School testified eloquently and ably in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee in support of a bill they requested that would establish Election Day as a state holiday. No doubt many members of this committee can cite similar examples of high-performing, civically-aware students in their legislative districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I’m happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.