



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
KANSAS ALLIANCE

To: K-12 Education Budget Committee

From: Dawn McWilliams, CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka

Date: February 12, 2019

Re: Testimony regarding the role of Boys & Girls Clubs in Kansas

Chairman Williams and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comment today regarding HB 2108 and the proposal authorizing school districts to expend at-risk-education funds on evidence based learning programs. We would like clarify that these funds would be available for state based national nonprofit organizations that augment the school day with before, after and summer enrichment programs.

In Kansas, Boys & Girls Clubs are located in 39 club sites in 14 cities. Fifty-one percent of Club sites are school based, 23% are traditional Clubhouses, 13% are affiliated with military bases, and 8% are Native American sites. Thirty-three percent of Clubs are located in urban areas, 36% in suburban and 18% in rural areas. Boys & Girls Clubs serve 12,660 youth through Club membership. Of those, 70% qualify for free and reduced lunches. (See attached fact sheet.)

Our Clubs are open every day after school and when school is out of session to provide a safe environment with people who care and evidence-based programs that close the opportunity gap. According to our annual National Youth Outcomes surveys, 97% of Club teens report that they expect to graduate from high school. Seventy-four percent of members age 12-17, who attend the Club regularly, say they earn mostly A's and B's compared with 67% of youth nationally. Club teens are more likely to abstain from alcohol and marijuana than their national peers. A Harris Poll survey of Boys & Girls Club alumni found that more than half – 54% – say that participating in the Club actually saved their life.

Boys & Girls Clubs fill the gap between school and home, providing safe environments where kids have fun, participate in life-changing programs, form supportive relationships with peers and caring adults, and basic needs are met. (Last year, over 146,000 meals and nearly 579,000 snacks were provided to youth at Clubs in Kansas.) Clubs offer nationally recognized programs that include articulated and measured goals. Kansas Clubs are affiliated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America and adhere to their internal standards as well as state licensing requirements. Kansas Alliance Clubs are based in Hutchinson, Atchison, Manhattan, Wichita, Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City (KS), Coffeyville, Ft. Leavenworth,

Kickapoo Tribe in Horton, Potawatomi Nation in Mayetta, and the Iowa Tribe in White Cloud.

KidzLit Reading Program:

Kidzlit is a core reading program of the Clubs, supported with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding from the Kansas Department for Children and Families. This initiative provides a curriculum that increases reading comprehension and vocabulary skills and improves grade-level reading capacity for elementary school Club participants. Last year, the legislature increased the support of this program from \$877,725 to \$1,877,725. The increase provides the opportunity for expanding the program previously targeting K-3rd graders, to also include 4th and 5th graders.

Reading on grade level has consistently been linked to success in school, development of positive attitudes and pregnancy prevention. KidzLit is delivered in Clubs after school and during summer programs. In 2018, Boys & Girls Clubs served 5,220 kids with KidzLit programs.

The following table shows stated goals and end of year (FY2018) outcomes of participants in the KidzLit program:

GOALS	ACTUAL OUTCOMES
75% of Club members increase enjoyment of reading	91% of Club members increased enjoyment of reading
75% of Club members increase reading comprehension	87% of Club members increased reading comprehension
75% of Club members increase vocabulary	85% of Club members increased vocabulary

Prevention Programs:

Boys & Girls Clubs provide comprehensive programs for at-risk youth that teach how to resist alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and deliver abstinence-based teen pregnancy prevention and education.

In FY 2018, \$219,435 was provided from TANF funds for prevention programs with a goal of meeting the goal of 775 youth. With the additional prevention funding of \$500,000 provided through FY 2019, Clubs will deliver one or more of the following programs, depending upon Club capacity and resources available:

1. SMART Girls: Imparts prevention/education and self-esteem enhancements to meet developmental needs, specifically for girls. Meets TANF goal #3 Prevention of out of wedlock pregnancy. Goal: to reach 555 girls.
2. Positive Action: Evidence-based program that teaches youth the “how and why” ways to avoid drugs. Meets TANF goal #3 Prevention of out of wedlock pregnancy. Goal: to reach 954 youth.

3. SMART Moves: Skills Mastery and Resistance Training hones participants' decision-making and critical-thinking skills, as well as instructs on avoiding and resisting alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and premature sexual activity. Goal: to reach 220 youth.

Summary:

There has never been a more important time in our nation's history than now to support our youth. Currently, one in five young people not only lives in poverty, but is unlikely to graduate high school on time. According to the Afterschool Alliance, nearly 225,000 children and youth in Kansas are waiting for an available after-school program or are alone and unsupervised after school – a time when juvenile crime escalates; exposure to risky behavior is heightened; and escapes into the internet plagued with unrealistic expectations of social media are at the fingertips of these youth. Afterschool programs, like the Boys & Girls Clubs, are part of the solution to these risks, providing a safe place with innovative programs designed to empower youth to excel in school, become good citizens and lead healthy, productive lives.

Please know that state and federal funds are going to areas where “at risk students” live. We have documented successes and ask that you support these efforts. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to working with the Legislature, Kansas Department for Children and Families and our communities to continue to serve Kansas youth. If you have questions, please contact me or our lobbyist, Allie Devine.

Boys & Girls Clubs in Kansas



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The Five Key Elements of Positive Youth Development are the foundation of Club Culture

- ❖ A safe and positive environment
- ❖ Fun-filled
- ❖ High expectations
- ❖ Recognition
- ❖ Supportive relationships

Boys & Girls Clubs provide targeted programs that are relevant to young people's lives today

- ❖ STEM, Creativity, Literacy
- ❖ College and Workforce Development
- ❖ 21st Century Leadership and Character
- ❖ Fitness, Health, Wellness

2015 BGCA Alumni Research Study Key Findings

- ❖ More than half of alumni say that participating in the Club really saved their life.
- ❖ Staff members play a critical role in the development of Club kids that continues to influence them throughout their lives.
- ❖ Boys & Girls Clubs have a long-lasting impact on the well-being of alumni, their families, and their communities.
- ❖ The Boys & Girls Club had a strong impact on alumni's commitment to their education.
- ❖ The Club gave alumni a strong sense of civic engagement and responsibility.

Operating Income

\$11,701,611 Total State Operating Income

43% Government Grant Income

Kansas Cities and *Military Bases* with Boys & Girls Club Programs and Facilities

Atchison	Lawrence	USAG Fort Leavenworth
Coffeyville	Manhattan	USAG Fort Riley
Horton	Mayetta	Wamego
Hutchinson	McConnell AFB	White Cloud
Junction City	Olathe	Wichita
Kansas City, KS	Topeka	



For more information, please contact
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Boys & Girls Clubs in Kansas



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KANSAS ALLIANCE

More than 109,434 youth served through membership and community outreach

43 Club sites in 15 cities

Our Mission

To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens

Our Vision

To provide a world-class Club Experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters our doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Why We Care

- ❖ 1 in 5 kids won't graduate on time¹
- ❖ Juvenile crime escalates between 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.²
- ❖ 3 out of 10 children are obese or overweight³
- ❖ 1 out of 5 young people lives in poverty⁴



Our Reach and Scope

Annual Number of Meals/Snacks Served at No Cost

134,509 Meals

646,138 Snacks

Registered Members that Qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch

69%

About the Youth We Serve:

81% Age 12 & Under

19% Teens

49% Caucasian

18% Black or African American

13% Multi-Racial

9% Hispanic or Latino

6% Native American

54% Male

46% Female

Types of Club Facilities:

58% Sites in Schools

18% Traditional Clubhouses

11% Military

7% Native American

Location of Club Facilities:

39% Urban

32% Suburban

13% Rural

¹ Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, "Diplomas Count 2014 – Motivation Matters: Engaging Students, Creating Learners," Education Week, Vol. 33, Issue 34 (June 5, 2014), www.edweek.org/go/dc14.

² OJJDP Statistical Briefing Book (Link: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/offenders/qa03401.asp?qaDate=2008>). Released on December 21, 2010.

³ Ogden, C.I., Carroll, M.D., Curten, L.R., et. Alt. Prevalence of High Body Mass Index in US Children and Adolescents, 2007-2008. Journal of the American Medical Association. (2010). 303(3): 242-249.

⁴ DeNavas-Walt, C. & B.D. Proctor. (2014). Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013. U.S. Census Bureau.