



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**
Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success

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Written Neutral Testimony

on

HB 2346 - Relating to standards for school-administered vision screenings.

by

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify as neutral on **HB 2346**, relating to standards for school-administered vision screenings.

Although KASB did not participate in the drafting of this bill, it appears to us that HB 2346 appropriately updates vision screening practices that had not been examined for a number of years. The updated practices will likely lead to improved outcomes for Kansas students because proper vision is important to a child's education.

Public schools currently serve – and boards provide vision screenings for - roughly 90 percent of Kansas students. Districts also provide screenings for private-school students who are on IEPs under the federal IDEA Part B (special education) law. HB 2346 expands mandated vision screenings to all students in accredited non-public schools, which may result in additional services provided by local public boards of education. While the number of additional students served under this new provision is relatively small, this does represent an unfunded mandate on local public boards of education. We believe, however, that the additional school funding provided by the Legislature will allow our members to accommodate this expense.