

2022 K-12 Education Budget Committee
Proponent of HB 2513
January 25, 2022
Culture Shield Network/ Phillis Setchell

Chairman Williams and K-12 Education Budget Committee,
Thank you for your service to our state and families.

I am Phillis Setchell, from Topeka. I am representing Culture Shield Network and myself.
We are Proponents of HB2513

Should parents have the right to know what their students are being taught or surveyed about in school? Culture Shield Network believes so. As a Kansas pro-family organization that has existed for over 10 years, we represent thousands of Kansans. When citizens/parents heard what is on these invasive survey's they lost their trust in the system. Hundreds have now left public education and many more are considering it. Unless parents have access to curriculum, surveys and activities of children in schools, trust will continue to decline. Much has the appearance of indoctrination as opposed to academics. Most parents and taxpayers want and expect the basics of reading, (good literature), mathematics, history and sciences that are accurate, and the acquiring a great understanding and communication of the English language.

We are aware of many parents who opt out of these surveys. However, we believe many more would, given the opportunity to "opt in." We will continue to expose these surveys on radio and by other communications. Our desire that instead of Kansas being the first state in 1994 to begin SEL, that Kansas would be known as a state where the basics are being taught and our children would excel in the academics that are important in life. Leave the social and emotional welfare to the parents, churches, and families.

Parents and guardians should have the right to read and approve whether to administer these very personal and potentially destructive lines of questioning before it can be administered to their children. It is an outrage to learn the nature of the questions, all the while academic scores decline. Are the millions spent on SEL to collect behavioral data on Kansas students improving academic learning? The KSDE numbers say no.

Shouldn't the focus of Kansas education be upon the wellbeing of our youth, and pursuit of excellence in each student's academic strengths?

What kind of data files and how many files are schools accumulating on students? Are businesses and NGO's collecting and storing data? Is this data being sold? Isn't this data collection, including academic record collection of student data their own private intellectual property? Isn't this a violation of the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution? Should this be grounds for law suits?

Who should own these personal records? How many schools received permission from parents to collect data on their children? There are many questions that need answers.

Social Emotional Learning, behavioral surveys, and data collecting: Promote dangerous lifestyles, drug and alcohol usage, violate the student's right to privacy and parental and guardian Constitutional rights, as well as is a detriment to academic learning and achievement.

Please defend our Kansas students from Social Emotional Learning and growing data collection invasion of their private lives.

HB 2513 will give parents the essential information they need. It should be the law that every parent/guardian has access to any curriculum that is being taught; only then can they make an informed decision before opting in to allow SEL behavioral data collecting on their student.

I ask for your support to vote HB 2513 out of committee favorably.

Thank you.

Phillis Setchell