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Written Proponent Testimony

SB 362 – Requires school districts to consider and document assessment of building needs, including state assessment data, and relating budget allocation according to assessed needs

Presented to the
House Committee on K – 12 Education Budget
Monday, March 7, 2022
By
Deena Horst and Ben Jones, Legislative Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Chairwoman Williams, Vice Chairman Hoffman, Ranking Minority Winn and Members of the Committee,

This bill specifies what information the Legislature desires to be able to access when it requires that each Local Board of Education conduct an assessment of the educational needs of each attendance center in the district.

The Kansas State Board of Education has established a vision that Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. This is measured by a combined look at academic achievement, graduation rates, postsecondary success, civic engagement, social-emotional learning, individual plans of study, and kindergarten readiness. SB 362 is a compromise reached in the Senate Education Committee which the State Board supports.

It is likely that being more specific will serve as a guide for such a document and we are not opposed to establishing a list of expectations. We do, however, have some comments about some of the requirements. They are as follows:

- We understand the review of state assessment results, but the state assessment is not the only achievement point during which students demonstrate their learning. It seems as though the learning that all of the Rose Standards represent should be considered, not just the areas covered by the state assessments.
- Grade-level proficiency can be demonstrated in many ways.

- The Senate Education Committee made changes to the bill which we feel address several of our concerns. Among those changes was to correct the meaning of grade-level proficiency and changing “each student” to all students.

We urge you to consider a needs assessment that reflects the academic achievement of students in a broader sense than just the state assessments. While such assessments provide one view of Kansas students’ education, it seems inappropriate to focus on a test that occurs a few hours out of a year that includes at least 1,116 hours of instruction. We urge the committee to view student success as more than a standardized test score.

Thank you again for the consideration of our thoughts regarding SB 362.