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Written Neutral 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 Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

By

Deena Horst and Ben Jones, Legislative Liaisons

Kansas State Board of Education

Chairwoman Baumgardner, Vice-Chairwoman Erickson, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing our input on SB 362.

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.

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/questions 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. Since the state assessments are only one measure taken on one day, why are we limiting a school district to an assessment on which some students do poorly, but excel in project-based work? Shouldn't all of the Rose Standards be the areas considered to drive the assessment?
- Grade-level proficiency can be demonstrated in many ways. Shouldn't those assessment points also be included?
- In (2) (C) it mentions that the Board must estimate the time it will take for each student to achieve grade-level proficiency. Are you really wanting a report filed in

the minutes in which each child who is not proficient is to be identified in the assessment and the time it will take for each to be ranked as proficient at their grade level? I'm certain that many of you would see that as an invasion of privacy and should never be presented in that manner, so we suggest you use language which will guarantee that student privacy is protected.

We urge you to consider an 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, something that occurs a few hours out of a year which includes at least 1,116 hours of instruction. The state assessments should not be the only item used to assess building needs, nor the only point used to determine the allocation that building receives from the district budget.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify regarding SB 362.