



Neutral Testimony before the
House K-12 Education Budget Committee
On

HB 2615 - authorizing policies to allow students to earn course credit through alternative educational opportunities
outside the classroom.

by
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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2615. KASB appears as neutral on this bill because we strongly support the concept of alternative educational opportunities outside of the classroom but are concerned that the provisions of this bill requiring State Board of Education approval is unnecessary and could impede the development of these programs.

In KASB's 2022 resolution on legislative position, our members adopted the following statement: "KASB supports the Kansas State Board of Education's Kansans Can vision and outcomes, with the goal of leading the world in the success of each student." In supporting the seven Kansans Can outcomes, we specifically supported the following:

High School Graduation: Support efforts of the State Board to consider revising high school graduation requirements to better reflect student preparation for postsecondary education and the workforce, including more "real world" experience.

Individual Plan of Study: Provide adequate support to allow more personalized educational experiences for each student.

The concepts in HB 2615 support both of these goals. Frankly, some school districts are already implementing these opportunities. As a result, we are not sure the bill the needed, but there may be two benefits for putting these concepts in statute.

First, it may help encourage other districts to move forward in these programs and expand opportunities for students.

Second, it would signal legislative endorsement of this direction.

However, we are concerned about subsection (d), which would require districts to submit such programs to the State Board of Education, which would have to approve them.



We think this is unnecessary because these programs must be approved by local boards and will be under the direction of a licensed teacher employed by the school district. We also think it is impractical for the State Board and KSDE staff to effectively provide evaluation of such programs, especially as they become more the norm than the exception.

Therefore, we could recommend removal of subsection (d), which would allow our support for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.