

TO: Rep. Adam Thomas (Education Committee Chair)
RE: HB 2003 KSHSAA Modifier Legislation
Proponent Speaking Testimony
DATE: January 17, 2023

Dear Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to speak as a Proponent on House Bill 2003, supporting the KSHSAA classifications bill. There are obvious advantages in terms of enrollment. Public schools have a legal obligation to take in and educate everyone that lives in the district boundaries and with that comes a certain level of SPED and lower SES students that don't typically participate in extracurricular activities. Privates are under no similar obligation and the financial barrier to entry often prevents those students from attending, especially when they are not offered the same accommodations and services that public schools provide.

That will always make their enrollment #'s an apples to oranges comparison. So with open borders and selective enrollment in a metro area the size of Kansas City this can be used as an advantage, especially when they selectively can waive tuition barriers with scholarships. I think KSHSAA has listened to its constituents and put a great deal of time and research into the current proposal that takes into account a number of factors and has broad public support.

As a program that has lost 7 of the last 9 years to a private school in the postseason I began to do research into what it will take to defeat them and what I found is that only 2 schools in the state of Kansas have a winning record against the 3 KC area private schools (Miege, Aquinas and St. James) since 2014. Blue Valley High 61% and Mill Valley High 54%. Mill Valley, despite winning 6 of the last 8 state titles in 5A, has never defeated 4A Miege in school history. Those two schools have two things in common.

1. They are widely considered the one of the premier football programs in Kansas with great community support, excellent facilities and consistently great coaching.

2. They have hundreds more students than any of the private schools (552 to 822 more depending on school). This isn't just a football problem either. Those same three private schools have combined to win 15 of the last 17 5A state volleyball titles. It isn't a recent problem either as Bishop Miege basketball won 22 of 42 state girls basketball titles.

These kinds of inequities should be addressed and I feel that the KSHSAA multiplier does that by factoring in 3 things; recent success, location and SES factors with their free and reduced lunch counts.

Respectfully

Rod Stallbaumer
Basehor-Linwood HS
rstallbaumer@blhs458.org

House Education Committee 2023

Date: 1/19/2023

Attachment # 5