



16740 W 175th Street
Olathe, KS 66062

To: House K-12 Budget Committee
From: Cassandra Barton; Insight School & Kansas Virtual Academy Date: March 24, 2017
Re: Support of HB 2410

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

I am Cassandra Barton, Head of School of Insight School of Kansas and Kansas Virtual Academy. These are two virtual schools within Spring Hill School District and are managed by K12, Inc, a virtual education provider. Thank you for the opportunity to offer remarks in support of HB 2410.

K12 Inc. is a company that provides online school services and curriculum to school districts across the nation. Our products and services are designed to provide alternative opportunities for public school students from kindergarten to 12th grade. At Insight and KSVA, this includes:

- Providing a full range of services and supports for our students
- Utilizing the rigorous, interactive, research-based and standards-aligned K12 Curriculum
- Hiring and training KS certified teachers and staff to instruct and support our students in a virtual environment
- Providing the technology to allow our students and staff to interact in many live sessions

We applaud the committee for taking the time to examine numerous finance proposal ideas, including this one. We do stand in support of HB 2410.

Our comments on this plan rest solely on the proposed funding levels for virtual education. This bill appropriates virtual school state aid to remain the same as current law, which a flat cost of \$5,000 per full-time pupil.

It is worth noting that the current law funding level of \$5,000 is actually a reduction from level prescribed in the second year of the Block Grant, which was scheduled to be \$5,600 per full time virtual education pupil for the School Year 2016-2017. This reduction came during the 2016 Special Session.

If any amendments are made to the virtual education funding portion of this bill, we would recommend a stair-step increase toward the \$5,600 level, as originally appropriated by the 2015 Legislature. This reflects recommendations of the 2015 Legislative Post Audit report on virtual education.

We would also recommend the virtual state aid be increased with inflation.

This bill does include provisions to ensure adult virtual courses are only funded when the adult passes the course. This was part of the recommendations in the 2015 Legislative Post Audit report regarding adult completion. This remedy is also in the current Block Grant.

Please use us as a resource for any questions you may have regarding virtual education.

Respectfully,

Cassandra Barton