



March 24, 2017

Testimony on  
HB 2410 – Creating the Kansas School Equity and Enhancement Act  
House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of USD 231 Gardner Edgerton, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2410. We are neutral on this bill.

The communities of Gardner and Edgerton are located in southwest Johnson County, one of the most rapidly growing areas of the state. Economic development is strong, and demand for residential housing is even stronger. Undoubtedly, this growth is drastically impacting our schools.

The two paragraphs below will summarize our positions on HB 2410.

First, the restoration of per pupil funding at \$4,170, combined with annual adjustments based on the Midwest consumer price index, provide an excellent foundation for the funding of K-12 education. We are also pleased to see increased budget opportunities for the Board of Education to exercise local control for the benefit of our students.

Second, to the extent that further tweaks are made to HB 2410, we would suggest the removal of any additional voter approval needed for the Local Activities Budget (LAB). The annual budget approval process for Kansas school districts provides opportunities for public input and Board action. We would also suggest that the second February 20<sup>th</sup> count date either 1) be fully removed, or 2) exclude 12<sup>th</sup> grade seniors. The spring schedules for graduating seniors tend to be more fluid as these students transition to post-secondary learning. The part time spring schedules, unfortunately, do not provide opportunities for staffing reductions due to annual teaching contracts.

Thank you for your continued efforts that invest resources in the education of our students.

Sincerely,

Pam Stranathan  
Superintendent  
USD 231 Gardner Edgerton