

From: [Keith Hall](#)
To: [Holly Broxterman](#)
Cc: [Ken Rahjes](#)
Subject: Bill 2511 - Written testimony
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From: Keith Hall - Superintendent/High School Principal - Thunder Ridge USD #110
To: holly.broxterman@house.ks.gov
Re: Home School Participation - **Bill 2511**

This is input regarding the proposed bill.

We use remote learning for students that have issues that prevent them from returning to regular school. Depending on the situation we have allowed them to participate in extracurricular activities. What seems to be happening is that students want to stop attending school in an alternative manner and just show up for the activity. Attendance becomes non-existent. This bill promotes that. It destroys the relationship between activities and school.

A bill like this promotes isolating students from their peer group. Our experience shows and research indicates students need to be on campus, for the full day, in person, and not just show up for activities.

Students enrolled in Thunder Ridge are required to be in school, we have an eligibility policy, a tardy policy and an attendance policy. If we let homeschool students participate in school activities, they circumvent all of our efforts for accountability. Accountability that applies to their lives when they go to work or further their education. You may know this already as a legislative body, but there are no rules for homeschoolers. The state of Kansas has taken a short sighted hands off approach. Most of the home school students that re-enroll in public school are woefully behind.

More importantly, the legislature has said many times they believe strongly in Home Rule. This bill circumvents our communities expectations on what school should be about. It eats at the core of accountability - students showing up everyday and doing what is required to be a good student as well as citizen.

Our activities are an extension of our classrooms at Thunder Ridge. This bill allows anyone to cherry pick the experience. We are about so much more than activities - they are an extension of our education at Thunder Ridge - not a stand alone entity.

This bill, in the best interest of students, should be denied. If you **MUST** move this bill forward, at the very least students should be **enrolled in their home institution** to allow the parents and school board to keep the local personal relationship strong and have an opportunity to create an environment that the local community supports. It should not be a springboard to allow a **DISTANT** impersonal institution that cares nothing about our students or community, to raid our school district of our students and diminish the education they deserve.