

House Bill 2662

by Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Opposed

Introduction of this legislation at a time when education is more challenged than it has ever been flies in the face of the desperate need for as many supports for kids and school personnel as possible. It ignores the resources that are presently in place to keep parents informed of what is going on in classrooms. In lines 5 – 8 resources that most districts provide to parents is ignored. Access to attendance and grades is on line. The overwhelming majority of teachers provide curriculum materials, syllabi, and assignments online. Many teachers also use other vehicles to convey information to parents.

In my many years in the classroom, I worked hard to involve parents in their children's educations. *Line 23 – 24 ...a parent shall have the right to play a central role in a child's education* could be changed as follows **...a parent shall have the responsibility to play a central role in a child's education** and that would be of great benefit to children.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) “requires schools to notify parents and eligible students of the right: to inspect and review education records and the procedures to do so; to seek amendment of records the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate and the procedures to do so; to consent to disclosures of education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and to file a complaint with SPPO concerning potential violations.” Lines 35-36 in HB 2662 insures parental rights to request records and procedures for requesting changes if they don't agree. Since the federal law requires similar access to records, this seems redundant

On page 3, line 34 schools are required to post tests online. Surely there is no real expectation that a teacher will post tests on line prior to administering them. Most standardized tests cannot be posted online and are usually not given to teachers. Security of access and handling of most high stakes tests is very high.

The process for reviewing library materials seems unnecessarily burdensome and time-consuming. School librarians are knowledgeable professionals who have a keen awareness of what is age and culturally appropriate. This process does not address the monitoring or appropriateness of materials accessed online. The use of the term parent transparency portal is using semantics to suggest that there is typically something hidden. All of the information referenced here is usually available to anyone who requests it.

On page 6, line 24 of HB 2662 there is reference to public places other than schools which seems to be an over-reach for an education bill. Additionally, it seems that page 8, line 28 refers to evaluation of professional staff. It is clearly problematic to interfere with the terms of the contract between local boards and staff.

In summary, careful examination of this bill reveals that it is duplicitous in the approach to education in Kansas. Every decision that lawmakers make should pass the test of what's best for kids.

In defense of public education in Kansas,

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