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2022 Legislative Positions – Kansas State Board of Education

It is our desire to work in concert with legislators to improve PreK-12 educational opportunities for each Kansas student. The Kansas State Board of Education has exclusive constitutional authority for general supervision of public schools which includes setting, but not limited to, course standards, determining high school graduation requirements and licensure of PreK-12 educators. The vision of the State Board is to lead the world in the success of each student. As an elected body of 10 members, the State Board has, by general consensus, established the following positions supporting existing and potential legislative issues of educational interest.

Academic Support Efforts: The Kansas State Board of Education supports the following:

- The recommendation of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia including to provide funding for a Dyslexia coordinator position at KSDE.
- The goal of moving toward providing the first 15 post-secondary credit hours, tuition-free, during high school.
- Extending special education learning services to age 22, for one year, to accommodate learning loss because of COVID.

Social and Emotional Issues: The Kansas State Board of Education supports:

- The ongoing work and recommendations of the School Mental Health Advisory Council, including, but not limited to: bullying prevention; efforts for suicide prevention and awareness; and child abuse and neglect.
- The expansion of the mental health intervention pilot.

Health and Safety Issues: The Kansas State Board of Education supports the following:

- The passage of Tobacco 21 legislation, plus bans on flavoring for electronic nicotine.
- The legislative recommendations of the School Bus Stop Arm Violation Committee.
- The efforts of the Attorney General to reduce human trafficking in Kansas.
- All efforts to reduce the Opioid epidemic in Kansas.
- Updating the school vision screening statute.
- The ongoing work of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.

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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Funding Issues: The Kansas State Board of Education is supportive of the following:

- The recommended funding levels approved by the Kansas Supreme Court and is appreciative of the Legislature's efforts to date to meet that agreement.
- Education public funds being provided to only public schools.
- Following state statute and moving toward funding 92% of the excess cost of special education.
- Continued coordination and investment in career and technical education programs that are aligned to workforce needs.
- Of opportunities to expand early childhood and kindergarten readiness.
- Of funding transportation of students in all unsafe situations, regardless of mileage.
- Amending the Capital Improvement State Aid Formula by removing USD 207 (Ft. Leavenworth), thereby providing more equitable funding for capital improvement projects.

Meeting Student Needs: The Kansas State Board of Education supports the following:

- The concept of public-private partnerships with business, and industry, etc. to allow for internships, mentoring, etc.
- Finding a solution to liability issues for work-place learning opportunities for students.
- The legislation which requires that the State Board of Education and the Legislature work together to monitor the success of the Foster Child Report Card.

Education Policy Governance: The Kansas State Board of Education supports:

- The constitutional authority given to the State Board of Education.
- The governance responsibilities assigned to the Kansas State High School Activities Association.
- The authority of local boards of education.

Disaster Issues: The Kansas State Board of Education is supportive of:

- Adjusting statutes to include more flexibility when responding to natural disasters, including the current pandemic, as it relates to required hours and/or days of instruction.

The Kansas State Board of Education looks forward to working with the Legislature on initiatives proven to mold a successful Kansas high school graduate including academic preparation, kindergarten readiness, social-emotional learning, individualized plan of study and civic engagement. Working together, Kansans Can lead the world in the success of each student.