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Legislative Priorities – Kansas State Board of Education 2021

The Kansas State Board of Education has the constitutional authority for general supervision of public schools. The mission of the State Board is to lead the world in the success of each student. The State Board has, by general consensus, established positions on existing and potential legislative issues of educational interest.

- Supports all recommendations of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia.
- Supports the ongoing work of the Special Education Transition Work Group.
- Supports the ongoing work and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying.
- Supports the ongoing work and recommendations of the School Mental Health Advisory Council, including efforts for suicide prevention and awareness.
- Supports the passage of Tobacco 21 legislation, plus bans on flavoring for electronic nicotine devices and marketing of such products to youth.
- Supports legislative recommendations of the School Bus Stop Arm Violation Committee.
- Supports work with Attorney General to reduce human trafficking in Kansas.
- Supports all efforts to reduce the Opioid and other controlled substance epidemics in Kansas.
- Supports the ongoing work of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee.
- Supports the goal of moving toward providing, tuition free, the first 15 postsecondary credit hours during high school.
- Supports the reinstatement of high density at-risk weighting.
- Supports using any appropriated, but underspent funds, for the purpose of providing more of the statutorily required percentage for special education excess costs.
- Supports continued coordination and investment in career and technical education programs that are aligned to workforce needs.
- Supports opportunities to expand early childhood and kindergarten readiness.
- Supports following state statute and move toward funding 92 percent of the excess cost of special education.
- Supports concept of public-private partnerships for the purpose of meeting student needs.
- Supports prioritizing school workers for receipt of COVID vaccine in Kansas.

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- Opposes infringement on State Board of Education's responsibility to determine statewide curricular standards and establish high school graduation requirements. For example, computer science and financial literacy, among other requirements, are currently being addressed by the State Board.
- Opposes any efforts to diminish the governance responsibilities of the Kansas State High School Activities Association's Board.
- Opposes any efforts to diminish the responsibility of the Kansas State Board of Education to license teachers.
- Opposes any reduction or modification to the recommended funding levels approved by the Kansas Supreme Court.
- Opposes efforts to divert funds from public schools to non-public educational options.
- Recognizes that COVID-19 has created additional financial burdens on school districts. Some examples are additional professional development to prepare staff for remote and hybrid learning, providing additional space for social distancing, additional cost of increased building sanitation, PPE, additional staff requirements when schools are in multiple settings, etc.