



Kansas PTA
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February 16, 2022

Written Testimony to Senate Education Committee

Honorable Chair, Senator Molly Baumgardner

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Room 445-S, State Capitol Building

Opposed to Senate Bill 393 – Publication of Materials with Financial Penalty

Hearing: Wednesday, February 17, 2022, 1:30 PM Room 144-S

Madame Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **opposition to SB 393** requiring school districts to annually publish on the internet a list of learning materials and activities used for student instruction at each school of the school district and providing a penalty for violations thereof. While school efforts to provide clear and relevant information to parents is in keeping with the mission of Kansas PTA, the punitive nature of this bill both financially and professionally undermines public education and the constitutional obligation of the state. Our objections and concerns are presented in order of the bill’s components and aligned with the [Kansas PTA legislative platform](#). Given the similarities with SB 363, some of the same concerns and questions are raised again here in SB 393:

- If the expectation is that all public schools provide online access to information, to what extent do all families across Kansas have access to affordable and reliable internet services? Should this later issue of equity be coupled with a bill of this nature?
- Kansas parents currently have access to their children’s assignments, district curriculum, grades, K-12 course of study, graduation requirements, attendance, or other personal records. Public school parents can access information about their children online, at school, via the backpack, or engage directly with teachers, principals and school secretaries.

Just this session, all the invited conferees to a January 24, 2022 House Committee hearing on the topic testified that they had no problems accessing their children’s instructional materials. ***“I believe BV does an excellent job with curriculum transparency... I can go on the website and see what the curriculum is, they list the novels... if a parent has an objection to a novel, that can be brought up to the school.. I feel informed”*** <https://youtu.be/V7ClwTUBiAY?t=4626> .

This **new regulation in all likelihood will pull teachers away from students and their efforts to facilitate learning recovery and diminish opportunities for personalized instruction**, for a level of documentation that is excessively time-consuming and can otherwise be clarified through existing procedures and standard parent involvement practices (e.g., online parent portals, contacting the teacher or principal).

- The prescribed means of organizing the posted instructional documents (Sect 1 a) does not appear to be informative to parents, who would have to comb through a vast list of materials that may or may not be relevant to their children, which as noted previously could be otherwise clarified through existing procedures and standard parent involvement practices (e.g., online parent portal, contacting the teacher or principal).
[sb393 00 0000.pdf \(kslegislature.org\)](#) [sb393 00 0000.pdf \(kslegislature.org\)](#) Our teachers have been overwhelmed by the global pandemic. Our educators have persistently gone above and beyond awaiting completion of the six-year phase-in of school funding restoration, as critical resources are incrementally returned to their districts and buildings. Our students need every drop of energy and support from their teachers. **This outrageous bill not only drains all positive mindset from our educators, but punishes our students by CUTTING the very budget needed to staff our classrooms, to keep classes down, to provide counselors and social workers and other supports for learning.**

The Kansas PTA opposes cutting MILLIONS of dollars from our schools:

[SB 393](#) “Any school district that does not comply ... shall have .. state funds ...withheld:

- For a first ... violation during the school year, 2% of state foundation aid or **\$1 million**, whichever is less, shall be withheld for the succeeding school year;
- for a second ... violation during the school year, 4% of state foundation aid or **\$2 million**,
- for a third ... violation during the school year, 6% of state foundation aid or **\$3 million**,
- for a fourth ... violation during the school year, 8% of state foundation aid or **\$4 million**,
- for a fifth .. violation during the school year, 10% of state foundation aid or **\$5 million.**”

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge you to vote NO on SB 393.

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THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child’s potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.