

## TAKE ACTION ALERT!

### Kansas PTA Action Alert

Updated March 25, 2022

**Red flags bills are passing.** Please contact your state legislators today and through the next week of March 28. Urge them to support students and learning recovery instead. Remind your senator and representative to stay focused on RESTORING the billion dollars cut from state aid back in 2009 and 2012 for the 500,000 plus Kansas public school students and to fully fund special education services.

Be sure to copy leadership on your outreach, Cc Speaker of the House, Rep Ron Ryckman, at [ron.ryckman@house.ks.gov](mailto:ron.ryckman@house.ks.gov), Senate President, Sen Ty Masterson at [ty.masterson@senate.ks.gov](mailto:ty.masterson@senate.ks.gov) and education committee chairs [molly.baumgardner@senate.ks.gov](mailto:molly.baumgardner@senate.ks.gov), [kristey.williams@house.ks.gov](mailto:kristey.williams@house.ks.gov) and [steve.huebert@house.ks.gov](mailto:steve.huebert@house.ks.gov). To find your state representative and senator, enter your full address at <https://ksleglookup.org>. Send an email or leave a voice message.

Below is a working list of bills still in play this session that could affect K-12 public education:

- ▶ **Separate K-12 Budget bundled with Policy thwarting K-12 Public Education:** [HB 2512](#) was approved by the House on a [76-46](#) vote. Kansas PTA opposes the process of separating education funds from the Governor's overall budget and bundling with unfriendly policy and cuts. Kansas PTA oppose the bill due to several problematic elements ([Priorities 1, 2 and 3](#)):
  - **Unfunded Dyslexia Mandate:** Requires districts to use their budgets to pay for mandated state special education Dyslexia Coordinator.
  - **Cuts CTE Funds:** Removes \$1.5 million recommended by the Governor for transportation to career technical education programs.
  - **Underfunded Special Education Mandate:** The House failed to pass an amendment to fully reimburse districts for \$320 million in annual special education expenditures, adding \$68 million each year for the next five year, on a [50-70](#) vote.
  - **Reduce Base Funding for Unfunded Program:** Potentially requires the Kansas Department of Education to deduct up to \$5 million from base state aid for student learning to reimburse districts for school safety facility enhancements and personnel. And, mandates that districts spend collectively \$4 million on virtual supplemental math with very detailed specifications, regardless if student

needs are being met via tutors or non-virtual resource materials. Additionally, the bill includes provisions and requirements for part-time enrollment of home schoolers and out-of-district enrollment and to private school aid.

- **Adds Duplicative, Non-Instructional, Bureaucratic Requirements:** to the budget development process, and to the assessment and reporting of student literacy and mathematics achievement.

- 🚩 **Open Boundaries:** [SB 455](#) would allow students to enroll in school districts with “capacity” where they are not residents and was approved by the Senate on a [23-16 vote](#). The House also passed a version of the bill [HB 2615](#) allows K-12 students to transfer to and attend school in any school district in the state on a [63-59](#) vote. Does this mean every classroom could be filled to the max or emptied to a neighbor while waiting for the state to restore constitutional funding to the classrooms? Kansas PTA opposes the legislative attempt to dismiss the constitutional authority of local school boards ([Priority 1](#)) and to dismiss the serious concerns identified by superintendents. Almost every district already has policy guiding the admissions of non-residents. These new bills create financial and legal challenges regarding the working definition of ‘capacity’, who defines it, and undermines district capacity to plan for facility and staffing needs.
- 🚩 **Parent Bill of Rights:** [SB 496](#), which would require school boards guarantee a set of duplicative parental rights that appear to pit parents against one another, was approved in the Senate [24-15](#). The House did not vote on their version of this bill [HB 2662](#). Kansas PTA opposes bills that disregard lanes of constitutional authority ([Priority 1](#)) and has serious reservations about these bills which are most likely to take teachers away from students, take administrators away from supporting educators and tie up school boards in lawsuits – rather than improve access and rights parents already afford ([Standing Policy](#)).
- 🚩 **Transgender Student Participation:** [SB 484](#), which adopts an out-of-state bill to set participation rules for transgender students, was approved by the Senate on a [27-12](#) vote. Kansas PTA opposes this bill because it ignores the rules already established by the Kansas High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) and overrides the authority of the Kansas educators and students who serve on this member board ([Priority 1](#)).
- 🚩 **Bans School Boards from Mandating Masks in Response to Contagious Disease:** [SB 541](#) and would impose many new restrictions on school boards and governments to contain infections or contagious disease. This bill was approved by the Senate on a [24-14](#) vote. Kansas PTA opposes the restrictions on school boards and government officials to maintain safe learning environments for Kansas

students, staff and their families, particularly in an effort to keep schools open during a global pandemic ([Priority 1](#), [Standing Policy](#)).

- ▶ **Restricting Election Ballot Boxes:** [Sub for HB 2056](#), which would limit county election offices to one remote ballot box for every 30,000 registered voters and restrict access to boxes to the hours of operation, was approved by the Senate on a [22-17](#) vote. Kansas PTA opposes efforts to restrict voter access that impede full citizenship and equality ([Standing Policy](#)).

Encourage Kansas legislators to instead for their continued bipartisan support of the school finance formula and the agreement to restore constitutional funding to Kansas public schools by 2023, as recommended by the [Kansas State Board of Education](#) and [the Governor](#). Urge them to support bills like these **green flag** ideas in keeping with the [Kansas Can Vision](#) and the work of the [Graduation Task Force](#) lead by the Kansas Department of Education.

- ✔ **Funded Support for CTE:** [HB 2631](#), incentive pilot program for Career and Technical Education (CTE) helping to offset the cost of high demand industry credentials for students, approved by the House on a [122-0](#) vote. Kansas PTA supports funded programs that create opportunities for students' career readiness ([Priority 3](#)).
- ✔ **Funded Support for CTE:** [HB 2466](#), which seeks to promote the availability of computer science educators in schools, was approved by the senate on a [27-11](#) vote. The original version of this bill passed the House [115-4](#). Kansas PTA supports funded programs that create opportunities for students' career readiness ([Priority 3](#)).
- ✔ **Tobacco Restrictions:** The House passed [HB 2340](#) raising the age to 21 for purchasing or possessing cigarettes and tobacco products on a vote of [79-43](#). Kansas PTA supports legislation that safeguards and promotes the health and welfare of Kansas kids ([Standing Policy](#), [Priority 9](#)).

The bills to create a partisan election for the justices of the Kansas Supreme Court failed, as did a Senate effort to adopt a TABOR like automatic tax lid restricting state revenues for core services like public education. The bill to create school vouchers in the form of Education Savings Accounts also appears to have hit a dead end for the session.

This Action Alert is in keeping with [Kansas PTA Legislative Priorities](#).