

STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

REGARDING VETO OF HOUSE BILL 2236

Parents and teachers across Kansas want the same thing – for our kids to get the best education possible.

This bill distracts from that goal, inserting partisan politics into the classroom at the expense of our students, parents, and teachers.

The best thing we can do for our students is work together to continue fully funding public education and ensure they have the resources and support to succeed. We can't do that if we are forced to spend millions of dollars on expensive lawsuits.

Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto House Bill 2236.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

DATED

A handwritten date in blue ink, "April 24, 2023", written over a horizontal line.

HOUSE BILL No. 2236

AN ACT concerning education; relating to school districts; establishing parents' right to direct the education and upbringing of their children including the right to object to educational materials and activities that are not included in approved curriculum or standards or impair a parent's beliefs, values or principles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) Every parent of a child in this state has a right to direct the education, upbringing and moral or religious training of such child.

(b) In accordance with the rights established under this section, each parent of a student enrolled in any school district shall be permitted by such school district to object to any educational materials or activities on the basis that such material or activity is not included in the approved district curriculum or state educational standards or impairs the parent's sincerely held beliefs, values or principles and to withdraw such student from the class or educational program in which the material or activity is being provided. No student's academic records shall be adversely affected by withdrawal from a class or educational program pursuant to this section. Exemptions from required instruction granted pursuant to this section do not excuse a student from the responsibility to complete comparable alternative assignments offered to obtain credit in the course, the total semester hours required for attendance or required courses for graduation by any such withdrawal from a class or educational program pursuant to this section. If an activity or resource impairs a parent's belief or value, an agreed upon alternative activity or resource shall be utilized. When appropriate, the student may remain in the classroom, or a placement shall be provided to give the student instructional support.

(c) The board of education of each school district shall adopt policies and procedures to guarantee the free exercise of the rights established under this section by the parents of students enrolled in such school district. Such policies and procedures shall include provisions for implementing subsection (b).

(d) As used in this section:

(1) "Activities" includes any presentation, assembly, lecture or other event facilitated by a school or school district. "Activities" does not include student presentations.

(2) "Educational materials" includes, but is not limited to, curriculum, textbooks, reading materials, videos, digital materials, websites, online applications and any other material given or provided to a student for student instruction.

(3) "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian or custodian or any other person who has authority to act on behalf of a child.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the House,
and passed that body

HOUSE concurred in
SENATE amendments _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.