



Oral proponent testimony before the
House Education Committee

On

HB 2658 Bill concerning school districts; relating to student safety and discipline. Allowing school districts to place a student in a virtual setting following a 186-day suspension.

By

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Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HB 2658. As we understand the bill it would authorize school districts to require a student who is returning to school after having been expelled for 186 days or more to attend a virtual school.

United School Administrators of Kansas supports the concept of local control for school districts. Unfortunately, there are instances when a student had been expelled or long-term suspended from school. At the conclusion of the expulsion or suspension, a public school is required to allow the student to return to school. In too many of these cases students were removed from the school setting due to violence or threats of violence, along with mental health concerns. For the safety of all students it would often times be reasonable for that student to return to school in a virtual setting.

There are also instances where students would not be considered a safety risk and could be returned to the regular in-school setting. We would encourage the committee to allow the local school leadership and school board to make these determinations on a case-by-case basis. For these reasons we support HB 2658.