



January 21, 2025
House Committee on Education
Informational Testimony Regarding SparkWheel
By: Ethan Spurling, Vice President of Policy & Government Relations

Chairperson Estes and members of the committee,

My name is Ethan Spurling and I am the Vice President of Policy & Government Relations for SparkWheel. I am fortunate to be joined by my colleagues behind me and we thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee and discuss the work and support that SparkWheel provides to the students, families, and communities we serve across Kansas.

SparkWheel is proud to be the largest provider of integrated student supports services in Kansas and the Midwest. We currently serve in more than 40 Kansas schools, including early childhood centers, elementary, middle, and high schools, and now on the campus of Pittsburg State University. Additionally, we also serve students after their graduation and into their early years of adulthood. We serve more than 22,011 students - and the number continues to grow. We work in several Kansas communities, from Pittsburg to Dodge City and Garden City, and the Kansas City metro region to El Dorado. We proudly offer a dynamic, tailored-to-fit program that respects local communities and adapts to their specific needs and values.

SparkWheel puts our staff inside the schools to work alongside teachers and administrators to identify the most underserved students and helps to provide them with direct services. Our services help empower teachers to focus more time on classroom instruction by delivering services and supports to students and families. These types of services can include financial literacy education, personalized academic support, preparation for strong futures, helping to provide essential needs, such as food and clothing, mentorship & role modeling, and positive behavior and attendance interventions.

SparkWheel's mission is to remove barriers and provide those we serve with the tools and resources they need to thrive, now and into the future. We provide services that help create well-rounded individuals who complete high school prepared for the steps that will lead them to becoming contributing members of their communities and our state.

This is a very high-level introduction to SparkWheel, because we could talk about our program all afternoon. More information can be found on our website at www.sparkwheel.org, and questions may be directed to John Monroe or Katherine Starr. Their emails are John@csga.com and Katherine@csga.com. Again, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.