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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Estes
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 26, 2025

Subject: SB 45 – Requiring the State Board of Education to calculate graduation rates for all school districts for purposes of accreditation using an alternative calculation.

Substitute for Senate Bill No. 45 (SB 45) creates new state law requiring the State Board of Education to use an alternative method for determining school district graduation rates for purposes of accreditation. Current law does not specify how graduation rates are determined for school districts. However, for virtual schools, K.S.A. 72-3713 requires that, for purposes of accreditation, the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate for a virtual school is determined by only including those students who had earned sufficient credits to be expected to graduate with their cohort at the time the student first enrolled in the virtual school.

When it was introduced, SB 45 proposed to amend K.S.A. 72-3713 to also exclude students who had transferred from a virtual school to a home school, a nonaccredited private school, or to another state from the virtual school's graduation rate determination. The Senate Committee on Education adopted Substitute for SB 45 to apply this method of determining graduation rates to each school district and any school operated by a school district, including virtual schools.

Under Substitute for SB 45, for purposes of accreditation, graduation rates are to be determined by:

- Only including those students who had earned sufficient credits to be expected to graduate with their four-year cohort at the time the student first enrolled in the school; and

- Excluding those students who transferred from the school to a home school, nonaccredited private school, or to another state.

The bill also amends K.S.A. 72-3713 to simply remove the graduation rate determination provision from the virtual school statute since under Section 1 such provision is made applicable to all schools.

If enacted, SB 45 would become effective on July 1, 2025.