



**Oral Neutral Testimony on
Sub for SB 45, graduation rate calculations
House Education Committee**

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February 26, 2025

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Substitute for SB 45. KASB appears as neutral on the bill as it is currently written.

KASB's member-adopted legislative policies support the authority of the State Board of Education over matters of accreditation, determining graduation requirements, and other areas outlined in the State Board's constitutional mandate:

Governing Schools

Authority of the Kansas State Board of Education

- We support that goal under the Kansas constitution's charge for intellectual, educational, vocational, and scientific improvement and its balance of responsibilities in Article 6 to entities, each accountable directly to the voters.
- We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, **including setting standards for accreditation**, learning standards, **graduation**, and licensure.

(Emphasis added). We respect the State Board of Education's role in overseeing the accreditation process for our public schools and urge caution in attempts to legislate away the State Board's authority over such matters.

At the same time, KASB members strongly believe that "[t]he same accreditation and accountability requirements must apply to any entity receiving taxpayer dollars for educating children." We therefore offer the following considerations for our neutral testimony.

Substitute for SB 45 would, for purposes of accreditation by the Kansas State Board of Education, exclude from a high school's graduation rate "students who were enrolled in such school but subsequently transferred to a nonaccredited private school in Kansas or another state." For clarification, nonaccredited private schools include, in state law, homeschool students. When this bill was heard in its original form in the Senate, KASB testified in opposition because it proposed using a different graduation rate calculation method for public virtual high schools than for traditional, brick-and-mortar public high schools. The bill was amended by the committee to address those concerns. We urge this committee to maintain parity in how all public high schools are treated for purposes of accreditation in this regard.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.