



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs
House Bill 2468
Oral Testimony – **Oppose**
House Committee on Education
January 21, 2026

Chairperson Estes, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2468.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization representing nearly 22,000 educators across the state of Kansas. Our members are organized into more than 275 local associations and work in schools and communities across nearly all 105 Kansas counties, serving students in urban, suburban, and rural districts alike.

The positions we advocate for are proposed, debated, and adopted by hundreds of educators selected by their peers to attend our annual Representative Assembly, reflecting the collective voice of education professionals of all political parties, beliefs, and backgrounds who are united by a commitment to Kansas public schools and the students they serve.

KNEA has several resolutions addressing the issue of the use of public funds to support private education. Resolution F-3-2, as reflected in the Kansas NEA Book of Resolutions, states:

Kansas NEA believes that state-mandated choice/voucher plans, tuition tax credits, or funding formulas that have the effect of financing private education with public funds, undermine support for public schools. Such programs could lead to racial, economic, and social isolation of students and weaken or destroy the public school system.

KNEA acknowledges that it is the right of parents/guardians to choose to send their students to private schools.

KNEA further believes that state funds should not be allocated to pay for feasibility studies of such choice, voucher, or tax-credit programs.

KNEA further believes that any private school or agency that receives public funding through voucher plans, tax credits, or other funding/financial arrangements must be subject to all accountability measures and regulations required of public schools.

KNEA's opposition to voucher and voucher-adjacent programs is long-standing and rooted in fundamental public policy concerns. Programs that use public tax policy to subsidize private education—whether through direct appropriations, state tax credits, or federal tax credits—divert public resources away from the public education system that is required to serve all students. Public schools must educate every child, including students with

disabilities, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students, and must do so under clear accountability, transparency, and nondiscrimination standards.

Private schools participating in these programs are not held to the same obligations, yet still benefit from public financial support. Diverting public revenue does not eliminate the fixed costs of operating public schools and makes it more difficult to sustain constitutionally required funding levels. For these reasons, KNEA has consistently opposed policies that use public money to support private education without equivalent public accountability.

In addition to these long-standing concerns, KNEA has additional concerns with HB 2468, particularly as it relates to opting Kansas into the federal program, for the following reasons:

Loss of State Control

Opting Kansas into the federal tax credit program would require the state to administer and participate in a framework largely defined at the federal level. Once opted in, Kansas would have limited ability to adjust the program or respond if federal rules or program impacts conflict with state education priorities.

Unclear Accountability and Oversight

The federal program relies on private scholarship-granting organizations, with oversight responsibilities split between the state and future federal guidance. This structure raises concerns about transparency, enforcement, and whether meaningful accountability will exist for programs supported through public tax policy.

Expansion Beyond Original Intent

Experience with similar programs shows that once states opt in, pressure builds to expand eligibility, increase caps, and loosen guardrails. What begins as a limited program often grows over time, increasing fiscal exposure without clear evidence of improved outcomes.

Long-Term Fiscal Uncertainty

Because tax credits reduce public revenue rather than appearing as direct appropriations, their full fiscal impact is often underestimated at adoption. Over time, this can make it more difficult to sustain predictable funding for public schools while committing public resources to programs outside the public education system.

For these reasons, KNEA strongly urges the committee to oppose HB 2468. This bill expands and entrenches voucher-style policies that divert public resources away from Kansas public schools and into private systems that are not required to meet the same standards, serve all students, or operate with public accountability. Opting Kansas into the federal tax credit program would further compound these concerns by committing the state to a framework that weakens oversight and creates long-term fiscal uncertainty for public education.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2468.