



Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent  
Olathe Public Schools  
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House Bill 2468 Scholarship program  
Opponent  
Written  
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Chairwoman Estes and Members of the Committee:

Olathe Public Schools is opposed to House Bill 2268, that expands the scope and impact of student scholarship act beyond its original legislative intent, diverting scarce public dollars away from public schools.

The Olathe Public Schools legislative platform reflects the policy priorities of our Board of Education and our District. Our approved 2026 legislative platform asserts:

- We strongly support using **public dollars to support public schools** and oppose programs, including vouchers, education saving accounts, opportunity scholarships, tax credit scholarships, tuition tax credits as well as individual tax credits and deductions allowing guardians to receive state income tax relief for approved educational expenses, that divert public funding from public education to schools that are not held to the same legal requirements as public schools.
- <https://www.olatheschools.org/discover-olathe/board-of-education/legislature>

The scholarship program began at the behest of legislators advocating to create the opportunities for low-income public-school student, who had no chance to escape “low performing schools.” Non-public school supporters praised the program as a means to help those the public school system had left behind. Often the students present in committee hearings and presentations were “low income.” Since the original law began, almost every legislative session that includes expansion of the scholarships. The Legislature increased income eligibility, expanded the amount of the tax credit, and raised the total program cap but also removed tax revenue available to education all students.

The goal of helping struggling students without opportunity and resources have better chance is diminished. The expansion of the program in House Bill 2468, combined with support for the federal tax credit program, are now tools of the state government supporting non-public and home schooled for a vastly different population.

The results of this bill include:

1. Higher income eligible participants. Tax credits in House Bill 2468 that will now reach \$500,000 per year to contributors make the program more obviously a tax shelter for high-income earners or business and corporate entities
2. Raising the total statewide cap, and possibly with a built-in accelerator annually, will increase the total amount of revenue available for the state to fund public education.



3. Finally, we do not support the bills "election" to join the federal scholarship program as well that is included in House Bill 2468.

Collectively, these changes alter the original legislative intent; funnels more public dollars primarily to families who already are availing themselves of private school options as we see in other states; and decreases the resources available to the vast majority of public-school students.

Olathe Public Schools is held to high standards for educational outcomes and student achievement, because we are funded by the taxpayers. Publicly elected school boards are

accountable to the citizens and taxpayers, and open meetings, open records, and auditing laws because they are funded by the taxpayers. Since this proposed law would allow scholarship granting agencies and "qualified schools" to receive the financial benefits of taxpayer funds, Kansas taxpayers should expect accountability and transparency.

- Eligibility for "qualified schools" and scholarship agencies must adhere to antidiscrimination laws.
- KSDE performance accountability reports include specific data reported by both public-school districts and "qualified schools" or home school programs. Their reports should now include reporting on public school districts and qualified schools by number and percentage of students with an IEP.
- All scholarship granting agencies and "qualified schools" should be statutorily identified as subject to contractual and financial audits, as are public schools per KSA 46-1114.

If I can provide any additional information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Yeager", written in a cursive style.

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