

NAME: Megan Langford
EMAIL ADDRESS: Langford.Megan@gmail.com
BILL NUMBER: HB 2468
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written Only

Chair Estes and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 2468 and its proposed expansion of the Tax Credit Scholarship voucher program in Kansas.

HB 2468 would double the current cap on the program from \$10 million to \$20 million and require Kansas to opt in to a new federal-level voucher program included in the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill." Both components raise serious concerns about equity, accountability, and the long-term impact on Kansas public education.

The original intent of the Tax Credit Scholarship program was to help low-income, at-risk students access educational opportunities they otherwise could not afford. However, the program has consistently failed to meet that goal. For years, fewer than 1% of eligible low-income students in Kansas received scholarships through this program. Rather than addressing this shortcoming, legislative leadership chose to expand income eligibility. Only because of that expansion is the program now nearing its \$10 million cap, and now House leadership is asking taxpayers to commit even more public dollars to private schools.

Private schools are not required to serve all students. They can select whom they admit and whom they exclude. As income limits expand, private schools can more easily bypass at-risk students and award scholarships to students who better fit their admission criteria. This leaves the very children the program was intended to help—low-income and at-risk students—at an even greater disadvantage.

Public tax dollars should remain with our public schools, which educate all children, regardless of income, disability, background, or academic need. Expanding this program diverts critical resources away from public schools and undermines the state's ability to adequately fund them. At a time when Kansas continues to struggle with fully funding special education, it is deeply concerning to redirect funds to private institutions that are not required to serve students with special needs.

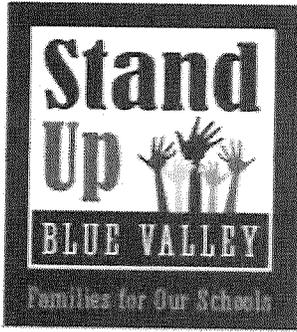
Additionally, the Tax Credit Scholarship program lacks meaningful accountability. There are no requirements to collect data, measure student progress, or demonstrate educational outcomes for students receiving scholarships. Kansas taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability for how public funds are used—standards that are required of public schools but absent from this program.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 2468. Expanding an inequitable and unaccountable voucher program is not in the best interest of Kansas students, families, or taxpayers. Our focus should be on strengthening and fully funding public education for all children, not subsidizing private schools that can choose whom they serve.

Thank you for voting no on HB 2468.

Sincerely,

Megan Langford
Lenexa, KS



Be informed.
Get involved.
Vote.

Patty Logan

Chair, Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools

standupbv@gmail.com

HB 2468

Electing to participate in the federal tax credit for individual contributions to scholarship granting organizations and increasing the aggregate tax credit limit on the tax credit for low income students scholarship program.

Opponent testimony

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026

Stand Up Blue Valley: Families for Our Schools is a parent and patron advocacy group in the Blue Valley School District. We advocate for legislation that supports Blue Valley Schools and work to help our community understand the importance of their votes to our schools.

We oppose any diversion of tax money to private schools. We oppose any expansion of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

We oppose the increase of total tax credits from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and potentially up to \$30,000 that HB 2468 would allow.

Blue Valley taxpayers understand that our taxes go to support our excellent public schools, which provide a quality education to approximately 22,000 students, support over 3000 jobs in our area, and turn out graduates who return to enhance our community. Our Blue Valley Schools are the backbone of our local economy and result in high home values as businesses and people move here for the schools. We disagree with the premise that some taxpayers would be allowed to get a credit on their taxes (thereby lowering the amount of taxes they are paying) in order to use their money to fund private schools. We disagree with the premise that private schools should be given tax money. We oppose the diversion of tax money from the state general fund to private enterprise.

We fully support the right of parents to determine whether public school, private school, or home schooling is best for each child in their family. We do not believe the taxpayers of Kansas should pay for that choice.

Private schools often include religious curriculum. **While we fully support the right of parents to send their students to any religious school they choose, we don't believe our tax dollars should be paying for religious education.**

Private schools are not required to accept or retain any student. We are aware of Blue Valley families whose special needs students were not able to attend BV-area private schools due to their needs not being met there. Expansion of eligibility for students to use Tax Credit Scholarships to attend private school expands the ability of private schools to benefit from accepting/choosing students who are easier to educate and leaving a disproportionate number of students with learning disabilities, physical differences, and behavioral issues for public schools to educate.

If philanthropically-minded individuals wish to fund scholarships for low income students to attend private schools, by all means they should do that. They should NOT, however, be allowed to deduct a percentage of that from the tax they owe to the state of Kansas. If private schools wish to provide scholarships for students they choose to admit, by all means they should do that, using the many mechanisms available to them and already in use - but they should not be allowed to use taxpayer money to do so.

Stand Up Blue Valley remains opposed to the original Tax Credit Scholarship Program and we oppose any and all attempts to expand the diversion of state tax revenue to private schools. **We urge you to vote no on HB 2468.**

January 19, 2026

Dear House Education Committee:

I am writing as a Kansas constituent, a graduate of a Kansas public high school, and a mother to two children in a Kansas public school to express my opposition to HB 2468.

Public schools are part of the critical infrastructure of our communities and deserve stable, reliable, fully-funded support. Expanding voucher funds diverts limited public resources away from the schools that serve the vast majority of Kansas students. Further, funds that are diverted lack transparency and there is little to no accountability for their use.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 2468 and, instead, prioritize measures that strengthen and fully-fund Kansas public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lund
8413 Juniper Lane
Prairie Village, KS 66207

Ann E. Mah
Retiree
Email: Annmah@att.net
HB 2468 – Federal tax credits for SGOs
Opponent, Written testimony
January 21, 2026

Chair Estes and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2468. HB 2468 expands the school voucher/scholarship system to federal tax credits, against the wishes of Kansas citizens.

My question is, where's the beef? HB 2468 expands a program that you have no evidence even works. The original intent was to allow low-income students struggling in lower performing public schools to go to private schools for supposed better academic achievement. So where's the beef? Where is the evidence to show that it worked? How do we know scholarship students actually do better in private schools? Where is the oversight? Why does the program allow students at higher performing public schools opt out to lower performing private schools? It's almost like you don't want to know what's really happening.

Signing on to the federal tax credit program makes it even worse. In HB 2468, you raise the cap on the tax credits from \$10 million to potentially \$30 million a year. Under the Kansas program, students must qualify for free or reduced lunches. In the federal program, the student's family can make up to 300% of the area median gross income. They could be rich! In the Kansas program, eligible schools must be accredited. The federal program could send money to home schools. All this puts a greater burden on public schools, especially rural schools.

As I have testified many times before, this is not about student choice, it's about school choice. The schools choose. Private schools do not have to meet many of the requirements of public schools. I accredited public and private schools for 25 years. I can tell you that most private schools do a good job of educating kids. But they do a different job than public schools. Private schools serve a niche market, not all kids. They are here to serve those markets, not create an educated nation.

As a former public school teacher and former state board of education member, I can tell you that public schools welcome all kids. Public schools take kids whether they are bruised, broken, unloved, unfed, unwanted or whatever. We don't care. And we try to turn them into the most successful and best people they can be. That's what we do, and that's what Kansans want.

Kansans want strong public schools. Strong public schools make a strong state. An educated society strengthens the economy and our democracy. Rather than skim money off to private and home schools, let's give public schools all those benefits you think private schools have to offer so every child has a fighting chance. Let's make public schools better. Let's deal with the real problems of poverty and equity. HB 2468 is just not the way.

I can see why this is on the fast track. If Kansans knew what was up and had time to respond, the hearing room would be flooded with opponents! All across the nation, when voters are given a chance to weigh in, school vouchers/scholarships are voted down. Examples are Colorado, Kentucky, and Nebraska. HB 2468 will be paid for by the taxpayers. Any money that is deflected to this voucher fund has to be made up by someone...and that someone is a Kansas taxpayer.

Don't do this backdoor expansion. It is not in the best interest of Kansas or Kansas kids.

Testimony to the House Education Committee

January 21, 2026

Bill HB 2468 Opponent

Rachel McCawley, MBA, parent of a SMSD student

Rachel.mccawley2@gmail.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2468. As a parent and citizen of the SMSD, I am opposing the new bill. Public dollars belong with our public schools that educate all children. Expanding this program reduces the state budget and undermines the state's ability to adequately fund Kansas public schools.

Education funds should go towards fully funding special education, not subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose which students they are willing to educate.

We should not be expanding a program that provides no accountability for our tax dollars. There are no requirements within the program to collect data or measure the progress of students receiving scholarships.

The state legislature has been asking the federal government to fully fund their share of special education. We should not opt into a program that will direct federal dollars to private schools while knowing the federal government is not meeting its obligation to fund special education.

Our House Education Committee needs to focus on providing equality to all our students and a fair and free education – not on programs that will be detrimental to the success of our students.

Please vote no on bill HB 2468.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rm', written in a cursive style.

Rachel McCawley,
Parent of a SMSD student
Leawood, KS

January 20, 2026

Testimony to the House Education Committee

Bill 2468 Opponent

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I am an attorney licensed and practicing in Kansas, as well as the parent of a first grader in the Shawnee Mission School District. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2468. This bill diverts essential public dollars away from Kansas public schools by expanding a program that provides state-funded scholarships for private education. Public funds belong with public schools that serve all children, regardless of ability, background, or circumstance. Redirecting these dollars undermines the state's constitutional obligation to adequately fund public education.

Kansas schools continue to face budget pressures that limit their ability to meet the needs of every student, particularly those requiring special education services. Rather than expanding a program that subsidizes private institutions, the Legislature should focus on fully funding special education and ensuring equitable resources for every public school district.

Additionally, this program lacks accountability and transparency for how tax dollars are spent. There are no requirements to collect data or measure the academic progress of students receiving these scholarships. Expanding a publicly funded program without basic oversight mechanisms invites waste and diminishes public confidence in our education system.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to reject HB 2468 and instead prioritize strengthening our public schools to ensure that every Kansas child receives a high-quality education.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to Kansas students.

Sincerely,

Samantha Monsees
6416 Reeds Drive
Mission, Kansas 66202

From: [Roxanne Nielsen](#)
To: [House Education](#)
Subject: HB 2468
Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:15:29 AM

[You don't often get email from roxanepadilla@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing as a Kansas constituent to express my opposition to HB 2468.

Public schools are the backbone of our communities and deserve stable, fully funded support. Expanding voucher funding diverts limited public resources away from the schools that serve the vast majority of Kansas students, while reducing accountability and transparency for taxpayer dollars.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 2468 and instead prioritize policies that strengthen and fully fund Kansas public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Roxanne Nielsen
8926 High Drive
Leawood, Ks 66206

January 21, 2026

Bill HB 2468 Opponent

Lane Odle, Shawnee Mission School District Parent
lane@dottedlinemarketing.com

Chair & Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to bill HB 2468.

As a public school graduate, I'm disappointed to learn the Kansas legislature is once again considering defunding public schools with vouchers. Many facilities already struggle financially to fund our children's education. Expanding this program reduces the state budget and undermines the state's ability to adequately fund Kansas public schools. This bill would be detrimental to our kids and local communities.

Offering equitable education to all students is possible through proper funding. However, vouchers put our overtaxed public schools in a perilous position. Many of which are critical to the survival of our small, rural communities.

Robust public education is one of the things that has made Kansans great. Investing in our children is not only the right thing to do. It also sets our country up for success by developing the next generation of leaders and innovators.

In closing, please vote no on bill HB 2468.

Sincerely,

Lane Odle
Business Owner and Parent
Leawood, KS

January 21, 2026

Testimony to the House Education Committee

NAME: Melinda Parks, lifetime Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: melindaparks85@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: HB 2468

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: OPPONENT

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for considering my opposition to HB 2468. As a product of Kansas public education and now the parent of a Kansas public educator, I am vehemently opposed to the use of public tax dollars for private schools.

Because private schools can pick and choose which students to admit, the expansion of this program leads to even further issues:

- **Public dollars belong to our public schools that educate all children.** Expanding this program reduces the state budget and undermines the state's ability to adequately fund Kansas public schools.
- **Education funds should go towards fully funding special education,** not subsidizing private schools that can pick and choose which students they are willing to educate.
- **Expanding this program will continue to put low-income, at-risk kids at a disadvantage** as they continue to be skipped over in favor of students who better fit private school admission criteria.
- **We should not be expanding a program that provides no accountability for our tax dollars.** There are no requirements within the program to collect data or measure the progress of students receiving scholarships.

Furthermore, I am opposed to Kansas opting in to the Federal Voucher Program. Under the new federal level voucher program, "donors" can contribute up to \$1,700 to a Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a 100% tax credit (i.e., direct reduction of their tax liability). Basically, donors get 100% of their money back from the federal government, a **much bigger benefit** than the **tax deductions** we all receive for charitable donations, while the federal government is already not meeting its obligation to fully fund special

education. Finally, it is ridiculous that the federal bill would provide “private school scholarships” to families making as much as 300% of their areas median income (e.g., \$322,000 in Johnson County). To summarize again:

- **Public dollars belong with public schools.**
- **The legislature has been asking the federal government to fully fund their share of special education.** We should not opt into a program that will direct federal dollars to private schools while knowing the federal government is not meeting its obligation to fund special education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melinda Parks
Lenexa

HB 2468 Opposition Testimony (Written Only)
House Education Committee
January 21, 2026
Angie Powers

Chair Estes and members of the committee,

Thank you for your work representing Kansas voters in Topeka. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2468, based on my experiences as a mother of two Kansas public school graduates and as a public school educator for 25 years.

I have seen firsthand how Kansas public schools transform lives. My oldest daughter found the hands-on learning she needed to prepare for her career at Lawrence Free State High; my youngest discovered their passion for Japanese culture at Olathe Northwest. Each of my children had different learning needs, and their public school educators provided them with the support and challenge they needed to succeed. This is what public schools do: they serve all students, regardless of background, ability, or circumstance.

HB 2468 threatens to weaken the public schools that educate more than 90% of Kansas students by indirectly diverting public tax dollars away from public schools to private institutions that are not held to the same standards, oversight, or accountability. Public schools must accept and educate all students, while private schools are free to select their students based on their own criteria—leaving behind those with disabilities, those who need extra support, and those from under-resourced communities. Expanding this program by opting into the federal voucher program and/or increasing the cap on the state program provides an even larger pool of students for private schools to pick from, making it less likely that the low-income, at-risk students this program was originally intended to help will actually benefit.

Moreover, this bill allows for tax avoidance that benefits the wealthy at the expense of Kansas students. Instead of reducing tax revenue in order to fund private institutions that lack oversight, we should be fully funding special education. The state's ongoing failure to meet its constitutional obligation to provide adequate special education funding already places a financial burden on local districts, forcing them to pull resources from general education budgets. In just the Olathe district alone, 44 million dollars has been transferred from the general fund to cover excess SPED costs in the last ten years. Expanding tax credits for private school tuition while refusing to fully fund special education sends a clear message: tax breaks for wealthy donors matter more than ensuring all Kansas students receive the support they need.

This bill is especially harmful to rural communities, where private schools are often nonexistent or limited to online options. In fact, nearly 60% of all private schools in Kansas are located in Sedgwick, Johnson, Wyandotte, Douglas and Shawnee counties. Public schools are the backbone of communities, especially in rural areas, and reallocating funds to private schools in urban and suburban regions will leave rural schools with even fewer resources to serve their students.

Public funds belong in public schools. If HB 2468 passes, it will weaken our neighborhood schools and siphon away resources that should be used to strengthen the institutions that serve all children. I urge you to oppose this bill and instead focus on policies that truly support Kansas students, like fully funding special education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angie Powers, Olathe, KS