



# SHAWNEE MISSION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Michael Schumacher, Superintendent  
Shawnee Mission School District  
[michaelschumacher@smsd.org](mailto:michaelschumacher@smsd.org)  
House Bill 2420 Prior consent for services  
Opponent  
Written  
January 22, 2026

Chairwoman Estes and Members of the Committee:

The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) is opposed to House Bill 2420, which would require school districts to obtain parental consent prior to providing certain school-based mental-health services.

The Shawnee Mission School District legislative platform reflects the policy priorities of our Board of Education and our District. As our legislative platform states, SMSD “supports policies and funding that maintain and strengthen district capacity to provide a healthy and safe learning environment,” and we believe HB 2420 challenges that priority and our ability to serve our students and their well-being. Our approved 2026 platform asserts:

- Maintain the authority of local boards of education to make decisions benefitting the health and well-being of students and staff, in collaboration with parental authorities and local and state public health authorities.
- Support increased funding and increased access to mental and behavioral health services for students and families, including support for suicide prevention services and programs.

At SMSD we know and value the communication and collaboration we have with our parents, families, and guardians. While we appreciate and understand the intent of HB 2420, we are concerned about the implications this may have on teachers or mental health professionals that work everyday to prioritize students’ health, safety, and well-being. We’re concerned that a civil penalty of \$5,000 may result in fear of serving students and instead of responding to our students’ needs. We appreciate the suicide risk assessment exception, but we also know how critical follow-up and ongoing mental health supports are for students who may be experiencing that.

Overall, we’re concerned HB 2420 is not the best way to respond to students’ mental and behavioral health and well-being, especially for those students who rely on and trust school-based services. So many students across Kansas are expected to deal with so much—family crises and disruption, bullying, anxiety, etc. But we know that mental health intervention in schools helps keep our students safe and



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improves their well-being in the long run, while also improving student attendance and achievement.

For these reasons we oppose HB 2420 in its current form. If I can provide any additional information or answer questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schumacher".

Dr. Michael Schumacher  
Superintendent