



Kansas PTA  
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HB 2530. Mandating high school career assessments.

Opponent. Written. House Education Committee

Hearing. Monday, January 26, 1:30 pm, Room 218-N

Michelle Sims, Committee Assistant  
785-296-7388, [h.Education@house.ks.gov](mailto:h.Education@house.ks.gov)  
Room 286-N, State Capitol Building

Chair Estes and Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of Kansas PTA, regarding this bill to enact a mandated high school career assessment per HB 2530. Kansas PTA supports the Kansans Can Vision and the real world learning work of our public schools, however, we are opposed to this proposed mandate ([KS PTA Legislative Platform](#)). Our concerns stem from the problems that typically arise when the authority of the state board and locally elected boards of education are disregarded. Nor is a fiscal note presented to note the costs to districts of this potential unfunded mandate.

Career interest and assessment tools are not new instructional resources to public schools. About a decade ago, the Kansans Can vision of the State Board of Education directed districts to focus on students career interests through the use of [Individual Plan of Study for all students](#). This priority was also reflected in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Every Student Succeeds Act) calling for heightened focus on personalized learning.

The Kansas Individual Plan of Study clearly places the child at the center of instruction AND engages the parents, along with the students and educators in the process of intentionally shaping students' educational pathways. The process is structured to empower students by increasing student engagement, promoting ownership, and creating lifelong learners-

**HB 2530 is an ALEC bill, not a Kansas issue and clearly disrupts a decade of focus, informed by Kansas stakeholders.** American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) initiatives by design are intended to limited government and promote the free-market, as stated on their website. This runs contrary to the state budgets for which half is allocated to public education, preK through higher education. Note, a bulk of ALEC proposed policies call for privatization of education.

Our public schools are the heart of Kansas communities, serving 90% of school age youth. Our teachers and administrators are committed to preparing all kids to thrive in work and in life. Creating opportunities for every child to engage and be successful serves to strengthen the viability of a thriving Kansas future.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge committee members, on behalf of the Kansas PTA, to vote no on HB 2530.

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Cc: Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy  
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison  
Mary Sinclair, PhD, Advocacy Team

***THE PTA POSITION***

*Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*