

Testimony on HB2510
Submitted to the House Education Committee
February 5, 2026

Chair Estes and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present neutral testimony on HB2510. In doing so, we must cite serious concerns regarding the approach this bill takes, particularly with respect to imposing mandates on local units of government, specifically our local school boards.

The concept of local control is a foundational principle of governance within the State of Kansas. Our state is composed of diverse governing bodies, including boards or commissions representing 625 cities, 105 counties, and 286 school districts. Local control is the mechanism that empowers these distinct entities to manage their budgets, pass ordinances, and establish policies that are specifically tailored to the unique economic, geographic, and social landscapes they serve. By allowing decision-making to reside at this level along with the concept of majority rules, the state fosters the government model that is more responsive to, and accountable for, the immediate needs and preferences of its citizens.

This principle is especially vital when considering the role of local school district boards of education. In accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution, the primary decision-making authority for education is concentrated at the local level. While this decision making structure is arbitrary, decisions themselves are not. These decisions ensure that the citizens themselves have the most direct and meaningful voice in the policies that directly affect the operations of their school districts. With regard to school boards, 4 or more votes in support or opposition to a question or issue determine its fate, just as 63 or more votes in support or opposition to a bill in this chamber determine its fate.

When the state imposes broad, unfunded, or overly prescriptive mandates, it diminishes this constitutionally prescribed local authority and dilutes the effectiveness and accountability of the locally elected representatives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration of these serious concerns regarding the erosion of local control that this bill reinforces.

Dr. Tiffany Anderson
Superintendent
Topeka Public Schools - USD 501

Jim Edwards
Lobbyist
Topeka Public Schools - USD 501