



Neutral Testimony re SB 114

For the Senate Education Committee

February 12, 2025

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Kansas State High School Activities Association

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony in support of Senate Bill 114 on behalf of the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

The mission of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) is to serve students by providing leadership for the administration of education based interscholastic activities. In doing so, we serve 738-member high schools and middle schools which educate more than 210,000 students annually across our great state in grades 7-12. The KSHSAA administers 34 unique activities for member schools which include academic competitions and performances, athletic competitions, and student leadership activities.

Since July 1, 2023, the public member schools of the KSHSAA have also provided learning and growth opportunities for students not enrolled at their campuses via compliance with House Sub for Senate Bill 387, which ultimately generated K.S.A. 72-7121. This statute affords participation opportunities in the activities administered by the KSHSAA to non-public school students. Upon adoption of that legislation, the KSHSAA developed an application process by which families and students may pursue eligibility at their local public school without enrollment and attendance at that school. This allows the students to demonstrate they satisfy the six individual eligibility criteria adopted by the membership of the KSHSAA as applied to this legislation. Since adoption, the process has provided the following approvals:

2023-24 School Year

Total High School students approved – 262

Home school – 173

Private school – 89

Total Junior High/Middle School students approved – 175

Home school – 125

Private school – 50

2024-25 School Year (as of 2/10/25)

Total High School students approved - 400

Home school – 224

Private school, brick & mortar – 60

Private virtual school – 24

Public virtual school – 92

Total Junior High/Middle School students approved - 311

Home school – 204

Private school, brick & mortar – 68

Private virtual school – 9

Public virtual school – 30

Schools are expected to learn and adhere to adopted rules which are consistent with governing statutes, including the detail of K.S.A. 72-7121. Annually, school administrators take part in mandatory summer administrative seminars, during which they learn of applicable new statutes, as well as amended rules and Association protocols. The non-public school eligibility allowance has been a significant topic in these meetings in the past two summer training meetings. As part of these training sessions, schools review the application process, and what is to occur when an application is submitted by a student or parents. The first review of an application involves the school leader verifying the student address is within their boundaries. Upon confirmation, the KSHSAA will then review submissions relative to all other eligibility criteria and then render a determination. Once the student is approved for eligibility, school leaders are expected to treat them like any other student regarding team membership, equipment, travel, playing time, expectations, awards/honors, etc.

If students gaining eligibility through the non-public school legislation are not afforded the opportunity to participate in ancillary activities through the public school, the first step for remedy should be through discussion with the school coach and/or administration, and then with the KSHSAA. As the Association already expects its member public schools to treat non-enrolled students like all other team members, school leaders would be reminded by and accountable to the KSHSAA for such compliance. The adoption of another addition to state statute, this one requiring ancillary activities associated with the activities administered by the KSHSAA, seems redundant and unnecessary. Schools not following this expectation should be afforded a chance to rectify the situation with encouragement and communication from their Association. Since the adoption of K.S.A. 72-7121, the KSHSAA has received no concerns or complaints relative to non-public students being denied these ancillary activities. As the KSHSAA and its member schools are already complying with all components of K.S.A. 72-7121, the KSHSAA will continue to support adherence to statutory language and philosophy, and respectfully note additional language is not necessary.