



Neutral, Written Only Testimony on Senate Bill 275
Senate Education Committee,
March 13, 2025
Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools

Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee:

We are neutral on Senate Bill 275.

Olathe Public Schools strongly supports every school district's engagement in the establishment of curriculum. In Kansas, local school boards follow the Kansas Department of Education's Curricular Standards. The local administration and staff, under the authority of elected board, develop the curriculum that reflects the community values and expectations expressed directly to the administration, and through the locally elected board.

Our position has been consistent: Curriculum that meets the Kansas standards and benchmarks is a local decision. The nature of a curriculum component does not dictate our response. On February 27th, we submitted testimony on Senate Bill 263 (active shooter drills) and the description of our neutrality on Senate Bill 275 is exactly the same as on Senate Bill:

"Senate Bill 263 articulates policy changes to facilitate a statewide set of guidelines. We support policies that reduce administrative burdens when current procedures may be absent, but our interest in favoring local school board decision-making on this issue warrants our neutral position."

We're spending time and resources committed to our curriculum regarding health. Our requirements for human growth and development reflect the best current scientific understanding of the development of the brain, the heart, and other vital organs and has our Board's support.

Our Board's commitment to the curriculum for health, safety, reading, mathematics, and other issues includes the State Standards. Our local board can adjust to situations, circumstances, technology, and methods to ensure up-to-date curriculum. We favor that flexibility in our responsiveness. There is value in the State Department of Education identifying best practices and providing technical guidance for districts, but statutorily designated content conflicts with the practice of establishing curriculum.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Yeager", is written over a white background.

Dr. Brent Yeager, Superintendent
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