



900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.gov

January 15, 2026

Neutral Testimony for SB 302
Senate Committee on Education
Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner
Kansas State Department of Education

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 302 related to prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices during instructional time and prohibiting official use of social media for employees to communicate directly with students.

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not take a position on the intent of SB 302 but would like to raise a concern related to the bill's use of the term "instructional time". KSDE is concerned this terminology will cause undue confusion for school districts when considering instructional time that can be counted in fulfilling requirements of the school term.

KSA 72-3115 requires that all public schools provide a minimum of 1,116 school hours each year. Although the term "instructional time" is not specifically used in the statute, it is commonly used by KSDE and school districts in describing what time during a school day counts toward the 1,116 hours required for the school term. Specifically, lunch time and any break/passing period of ten minutes or more are not counted towards the school term requirement.

KSDE recommends that if the legislature wants passing periods and lunch time to be included in the policy prohibiting student use of personal electronic devices that the term "school day" be used instead of "instructional time".

To avoid confusion in hours counted towards the school day, it is KSDE's recommendation that the bill clearly state that the prohibition of personal electronic communication devices is for the duration of the "school day" and not use the term "instructional time".

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on SB 302. Although KSDE does not take a position on the bill, the requested technical change will be important if the bill is enacted.

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.