



Kansas PTA
715 SW 10th Street, Topeka KS 66612
www.kansas-pta-legislative.org
kansaspta@gmail.com

Opponent. [SB 302. Cell Phone Use in School Districts](#)
Remote Testimony. Senate Education Committee
Hearing. Thursday, January 15, 1:30 pm, Room 144-S
Mary Sinclair, PhD — Kansas PTA, Advocacy Team
(on behalf of Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President)

Cyndie Rexer, Committee Assistant
785-296-7368 s.Education@senate.ks.gov
Room 445-S, State Capitol Building

Honorable Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Kansas PTA, thank you for the opportunity to provide remote testimony in opposition to SB 302 regarding the use of cell phones in school districts. Kansas PTA supports the work of districts to engage students in learning and to minimize distractions. Use of personal electronic communication devices, however, is **an issue for locally elected school boards** and district leadership ([KS PTA Legislative Priority 1](#)). Many Kansas school districts already have policies or guidelines in place, intentionally crafted with the input of local stakeholders. This proposed state mandate cancels the voices of these parents, teachers, administrators, and students across the state.

Further, this bill will create problems. For example:

- **Unnecessary Logistical Challenges.** Many local schools currently require students to store their phones. These educators have implemented procedures that are effective, enforceable, and affordable. The proposed storage mandates could create logistic challenges that cost districts even more money and/or are less effective.
- **Unfunded Mandate.** This bill creates an unfunded mandate and liability exposure, adding additional budget pressures that take away from teacher pay.
- **Communication Restrictions.** While attention to the use of effective platforms for timely and efficient one-way communication is appreciated, the bill is not clear on how a student would communicate with a teacher, coach or activity director regarding an issue that warrants student privacy. Student safety from predatory or inappropriate contact is important. This bill does not solve those concerns.
- **Chronic Absenteeism.** Secondary schools could see a spike in chronic absenteeism and declining academic performance due to disproportionate disciplinary actions mandated

by state law in the name of enforcing cell phone policy violations. This bill siphons valuable administrative time from supporting actual evidence-based practices to increase student engagement.

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 SB 302 regarding the use of cell phones in school districts. Respect the authority and knowledge that Kansas voters place in their locally elected school board members.

Mary F. Sinclair, PhD, Advocacy Team
mfoxsinclair@gmail.com
@KsPTALeg

Cc: Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President
Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison

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.