



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

Opponent. [SB 338](#). Re-classifying home school as a private elementary and secondary school.

Written Testimony. Senate Education Committee
Hearing. Wednesday, January 21, 1:30 pm, Room 144-S
Vikki Mullins
President, Kansas PTA

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

Committee Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

I value the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to SB 338 related to home school classification, on behalf of the Kansas PTA. **We are opposed to the reclassification of home school to private school**, primarily due to the absence of authorized oversight by the Kansas Department of Education, State Board of Education and Kansas legislature.

The only single piece of information required by the Kansas legislature to qualify as a home school is an address, not even the number and ages of students being schooled. With a private school designation, home schools would be eligible to participate in the new federal tax credit voucher program.

Public dollars should stay with public schools ([KS PTA Legislative Priorities 6, 7, 14](#)). Private schools and home schools have limited accountability, if any. Non-public schools are not required to accept all students, can discriminate in admissions, mandate religious instruction, operate under different rules (or no rules) of transparency and accountability, waive access to special education services and such. Private schools choose the students, not parents.

The new federal tax credit voucher program is **a massive new entitlement program**, designed to subsidize private school systems with public taxpayer funds. Kansas PTA would rather see our elected officials fully funding special education in our public school system, where 90% to 95% of all students are enrolled and attend.

Evidence continues to accumulate that voucher programs across the country do not result in better test scores for at-risk students, and, in many states, have led to significant declines in their academic achievement. Large-scale independent studies in [D.C.](#), [Indiana](#), [Louisiana](#), and [Ohio](#) show that for kids who left public schools, voucher programs were as or more harmful academically than the global pandemic, based on standardized test scores. Voucher programs

were also found to negatively impact students as much or more as the Hurricane Katrina disruptions did to Louisiana student achievement back in 2005 ([Hechinger Report, 2022](#); [Cowen, 2024](#)). Vulnerable Kansas students should not be subject to such potential learning loss. Consider recent efforts to establish micro schools across Kansas.

Let's recognize the new 2023 baseline for Kansas public schools and from there monitor progress and ensure all Kansas kids have equal opportunity to achieve. Note the following, among the Kansas public school students for whom half live in poverty, 17% students receiving special education services, 10% are English language learners and the current class of kindergartners were born when no COVID vaccine was available for infants (KSDE, 2025):

- Record percentage of students graduating high school, 90%.
- Record number students taking post-secondary courses (40,709) and earning record number of post-secondary credits (333,007).
- Record number AP exams taken (16,652) and passing with score of 3 or above (12,240)
- Over 70% of 3rd graders can not only read, but can identify themes in different texts, differentiate facts from opinion, with supporting evidence ([KS Assessments, 2025](#)).
- Over 70% of 8th graders can not only do math, but can solve multi-step linear equations ([KS Assessments, 2025](#)).

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 338 voucher-prep bill. Instead, urge our federal congressional members to fully fund special education and to restore the U.S. Department of Education.

Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President
KansasPTA@gmail.com
@KsPTALeg

Cc: Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison
Mary Sinclair, PhD, Advocacy Team

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.