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Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 339 (Written-Only Testimony)
K-5 Recess Requirement
Senate Education Committee
January 22, 2026

Chairwoman Erickson and members of committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **written testimony in support of SB 339.**

Aligned is a nonpartisan advocacy organization focused on advancing effective, evidence-based education policy in Kansas. We support SB 339 because it brings clarity to school calendar requirements and supports student well-being.

Aligned particularly supports the bill's clarification that organized recess is considered part of the school term including required recess for K-5 students. This provision ensures that recess is a meaningful and essential part of the elementary school day and not optional time that competes with instructional requirements.

For young learners, recess supports physical health, social emotional development, and classroom readiness. By explicitly counting recess as school time SB 339 ensures districts are not incentivized to shorten or eliminate recess when adjusting schedules due to hazardous weather or school closures.

The bill allows districts' flexibility to manage unavoidable closures while maintaining clear limits and preserving State Board oversight through a waiver process. Districts remain responsible for providing students with an educational offering that is substantially equivalent to what is required by law.

We support SB 339 as it brings clarity to attendance and calendar rules and prioritizes the well-being of K-5 students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Claudia Fury-Aguirre

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