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Opponent Testimony for SB 339

Senate Committee on Education
Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New, Legislative Liaisons
Kansas State Board of Education

Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony regarding Senate Bill 339. The State Board of Education recognizes the importance of encouraging students to be physically active and through guidance provided by the Kansas State Department of Education, provides guidance recommending at least 30 minutes of daily recess time. However, the State Board of Education is opposed to this bill for two primary reasons.

First, school districts and local boards of education are best positioned to establish their school calendar and to determine the appropriate time dedicated during the school day to organized recess. New Section 1 of the bill makes the requirement applicable to all grades kindergarten through fifth. For a variety of reasons, districts have organized middle schools to include fourth and/or fifth grade. This grade configuration may necessitate some variability in recess time allotted. This is one specific reason why the local school board is best suited to determine the total amount of recess time.

Second, in Section 2 (i), the bill explicitly designates organized recess (New Section 1) as part of the official school term, which would require recess to count towards the required school hours. [Guidance provided by the Kansas State Department of Education](#) currently states that up to 30 minutes of the school day, in two 15-minute increments before and after lunch, may be counted as part of the school day. Due to the recommended recess time of at least 60 minutes in New Section 1, the State board of Education is concerned that this may cause confusion on how much organized recess time may be counted towards the required school hours. If the legislature chooses to pass this legislation, the State Board of Education urges Section 2 (i) to reflect current guidance and only permit school districts to count up to 30 minutes of organized recess towards the statutorily required school hours.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our testimony,

Cathy Hopkins and Beryl New, Legislative Liaisons

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.