

Oral Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee

On
SB 339

Requiring school districts to provide at least 30 minutes of daily recess time for students in grades kindergarten through five and designating such time as part of the school term.

by
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January 22, 2026

Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Education committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present opposition testimony on SB 339. USA Kansas supports promoting student well-being through physical activity. However, we appear in opposition to SB 339 for the following reasons.

1. School districts are best positioned to determine instructional time and daily schedules that fit their unique circumstances. There is no flexibility in this bill. This bill removes all decision making from the local school and places it in the hands of the state.
2. "One-Size-Fits-All" doesn't reflect the real world of schools. Kansas schools vary in size, geography, resources, and instructional models. Some schools are on a 4 day week, some are on block scheduling. Many schools attempt to alternate classes with physical education/recess.
3. SB 339 could be an unfunded mandate for some school districts. There is no additional funding to help districts that need to hire additional staff for supervision for the mandated time.
4. If there is recess time lacking, parents, teachers, and administrators should work together on local situations that fit their school and student needs. A state mandate is not the answer.

For these reasons I respectfully urge the committee to reject SB 339.