



To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Cassandra Barton, Insight School of KS and KS Virtual Academy Head of School

Date: February 10, 2026

Re: Support of SB 382

Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 382 on behalf of Insight School of Kansas and Kansas Virtual Academy. As the Head of School for two virtual schools in Kansas serving students all over the state, I have been a proponent of virtual state assessments for several years. Having virtual state assessments as an option for virtual students sets them up for success.

Our students choose virtual schools because they believe it is the schooling model which provides them with the best opportunity to learn and be successful. Our students learn their lessons virtually. They take all their quizzes and exams virtually, and starting in spring 2024, were finally able to take their state assessments virtually too. We have seen a positive impact with virtual state assessments: our participation rates have increased, our student outcomes have improved, and families have been happy to be relieved of the burden of traveling to an in-person testing site. A major question in 2023, during preliminary discussions of virtual testing was how many of our students would be interested in that mode of assessment. For KSVVA and Insight, it has been over 80% of our testers each school year that virtual testing has been available.

As with anything new, there are always improvements that can further enhance an experience. SB 382 is doing just that - providing improvements to the law allowing virtual state assessments to further improve the testing experience for virtual testers, as well as reduce the burden on virtual students and schools who are exercising their right to test virtually.

For all state assessments, schools are provided with testing windows, or dates ranges, where testing is allowed. The testing window for brick-and-mortar students is 25 school days, while virtual schools have been given only 10 school days. SB 382 aligns the windows so all public school students who are testing, whether in-person or virtual, have the same testing window. This will be beneficial to virtual schools because it gives more flexibility to allow for make-up testing sessions should a student be ill, have technical difficulties, etc. during an assigned testing session. Additionally, it allows virtual testers to have assessments dispersed more evenly over time, which prevents stress and testing fatigue.

Currently, virtual school staff are not allowed to proctor the state assessments for their students and virtual schools are required to utilize a specific third-party proctor vendor. SB

382 gives virtual schools autonomy to determine how their virtual testers will be proctored. At Insight and KSVA, we would like to proctor our own students. We know it is best for students to take assessments with staff they know, on a platform with which they are already familiar. My staff are experts on monitoring students in a virtual classroom, on troubleshooting in our systems as needed, and on the students they serve. When required to use an outside proctor vendor, our staff are helpless as they hand their students over to strangers and have no further communication during the testing session. They are unable to troubleshoot tech issues, answer questions, ensure accommodations outlined in by IEPs or 504s are provided, etc. Virtual teachers who are licensed by the Kansas State Department of Education should be trusted to proctor their own students just as brick-and-mortar teachers are. Furthermore, virtual students should be trusted to abide by the security and ethics practices as they take the assessments, just as brick-and-mortar students are. Currently in the United States, 14 states have passed legislation to permit remote proctoring; of which, currently only Kansas requires the use of a third-party proctor vendor.

Finally, SB 382 clarifies that students testing virtually are not required to have two devices for testing sessions if the assessment platform provides integrated camera proctoring. At this time, all virtual testers are required to use two devices for each testing session, or they are not allowed to test. They are on their schooling device to use the testing platform, Kite, and then must also have a 2nd device with a functioning camera and microphone so the third-party proctor can view/hear the student, computer screen, and surrounding test environment. This creates a burden on the family; they must ensure they have a second device available for multiple testing sessions and that the secondary device can be used to join a session on an unfamiliar platform determined by the third-party proctor vendor. They must also create a set-up where the second device can be positioned behind the student who is testing and remain there without anyone in the room apart from the student testing. From my experience over the last two testing seasons, Kite can provide for integrated camera monitoring and, thus, one device should suffice for most students.

We are very grateful for the option to complete state assessments virtually in Kansas, as well as your time and efforts in continuing to make that option as fair and feasible for students as possible. We look forward to continued improvement in the virtual assessment experience and the positive impact it will have on student outcomes.