



Opposition Written Testimony - SB381
Senate Committee on Education
Senator Renee Erickson, Chair

February 11, 2026
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USD 259 - Wichita Public Schools

Chair Erickson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 381.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued focus on ensuring Kansas students graduate prepared for success after high school. We share that goal. However, adding another state-mandated testing requirement as a condition of graduation is unnecessary and counterproductive, particularly when existing academic coursework already provides a meaningful and direct measure of whether students have mastered required content.

Kansas graduation requirements are built around successful completion of rigorous, standards-aligned courses. Students must demonstrate proficiency through coursework, teacher-developed assessments, district benchmarks, and state assessments already embedded within the system. These academic measures provide ongoing, authentic evidence of learning across multiple years — not a single snapshot on a single day.

Adding an additional high-stakes testing requirement:

1. **Duplicates existing accountability measures.**

Our accredited curriculum is aligned to Kansas standards. When a student successfully completes required coursework, that completion reflects demonstrated knowledge and skill. A separate test does not enhance that validation; it simply adds another layer of compliance.

2. **Creates barriers rather than opportunities.**

Graduation should reflect sustained learning and growth. A single additional testing requirement risks disproportionately impacting students with disabilities, English learners, and students facing economic or personal challenges — even when they have successfully completed the required academic coursework.

3. **Diverts time and resources from instruction.**

Each additional testing mandate requires administrative oversight, scheduling time, staff training, remediation planning, and data reporting. Resources of time and finances would be better directed toward strengthening instruction, expanding career pathways, and supporting students earlier in their academic careers.

4. **Undermines local professional judgment.**

Kansas educators are trained to assess student mastery through multiple measures. Coursework, performance assessments, capstone projects, and aligned district benchmarks provide more comprehensive evidence of readiness than a single standardized assessment.

Graduation should represent sustained achievement across a student's high school experience — not hinge on the addition of another test layered onto an already accountable system.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to not to advance SB 381. Thank you for your consideration.