



**Oral Opponent Testimony on  
SB 381, social studies curriculum  
Senate Education Committee**

**By  
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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB is a nonprofit professional membership organization representing over 330 local boards of education, special education interlocals, and boards of trustees of community colleges and technical colleges across Kansas. KASB's more than 2000 locally elected board members are committed to strong local governance and accountability in public education.

We appear today in opposition to SB 381 due to our member-approved legislative policies, which include firm support for the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education and local school boards. I've reproduced those positions on page 3 of this testimony.

SB 381 clearly usurps the power of the State Board and locally elected boards of education by dictating not only curricular content but also graduation requirements.

The bill not only improperly inserts the state into local decisions; but we also observe that SB 381's curricular requirements to provide state-mandated instruction on the complex topics of communism and socialism at the kindergarten and early elementary grade levels is unrealistic and unworkable given the relative immaturity of young minds at that age.

Additionally, SB 381 appears to have been drafted without consulting Kansas state standards for high school students, which include required coursework in World History, U.S. History and American Government. The screenshot on page 2 below details the expectations set for Manhattan High School students by the Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 Board of Education.



**MHS / USD 383 Graduation Requirements  
for the classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027**

<b>English – Language Arts</b>	<b>4 Total Credits</b>
English 9 or Accelerated English 9	1.0
English 10 or Accelerated English 10	1.0
American Literature or AP English Language & Composition	1.0
Humanities & Composition or AP English Literature & Composition or English Comp 1 & 2	1.0
<b>Fine Arts (All fine arts are *)</b>	<b>1 Credit</b>
Any course offered through Performing Art Department, Visual Art Department or Forensics	
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	<b>2 Total Credits</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Health & Physical Education	1.0
Physical Education Elective	1.0
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3 Total Credits</b>
Must be Algebraic Concepts equivalent & beyond	
<b>Science (Biological &amp; Physical)</b>	<b>3 Total Credits</b>
Biology 1 & Biology 2	1.0
Physical Science	1.0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year of Science	1.0
<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>3 Total Credits</b>
World History	1.0
U. S. History 1 & 2 or U.S. History KSU or AP U.S. History	1.0
American Government, KSU American Government, or AP Government & Politics	.5
Social Studies elective	.5
<b>Electives</b>	<b>8 credits</b>

State interference with a student’s ability to graduate from high school by mandating a passing grade on a single civics examination also interferes with Kansas parents’ rights and expectations for their children’s educational and career paths. Under SB 381, a student would be prevented from pursuing his or her postsecondary goals not because of deficiencies in academic ability but because the state arbitrarily prevented him or her from doing so.

We urge the committee to reject SB 381 and to instead focus its efforts on supporting student excellence through full funding of special education and by ensuring that taxpayer dollars for education are directed exclusively to public schools that are accountable to students, parents, and their communities.

Thank you. I’ll stand for questions at the appropriate time.



## **KASB Legislative Policy Positions:**

### **School Board Authority and Accountability**

As the constitutional authority charged with the management of local schools, the school board is accountable to district patrons through the electoral process and must be the final authority on local management decisions for expenditures, personnel, facilities, and programs.

### **State Board of Education**

#### **1. State Structure for Supervising Education**

KASB believes the following constitutional provisions are critical to the current and future success of Kansas public schools:

- a. The State Board of Education is elected.
- b. The State Commissioner of Education is appointed by the State Board of Education.
- c. The supervision of all schools—preschool, elementary, and secondary schools—is vested in the State Board of Education. KASB supports the constitutional powers of the State Board.

#### Local Control of Public Schools

Article 6, Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution directs that "Local public schools under the general supervision of the state board of education shall be maintained, developed and operated under locally elected boards."

- We support management of public schools under locally elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, fiscal management, and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.

#### Authority of the Kansas State Board of Education

- We affirm the Kansas Constitution's directive to promote intellectual, educational, vocational, and scientific improvement, and support the balanced governance structure outlined in Article 6, which assigns responsibilities to entities directly accountable to voters.
- We support the Kansas State Board of Education's general supervisory authority over public schools, including its responsibility for setting accreditation standards, academic learning standards, graduation requirements, and educator licensure.

*KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.*