



Kansas PTA  
715 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Topeka KS 66612  
[www.kansas-pta-legislative.org](http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org)

Opponent. [SB 381](#). Graduation requirement.  
Remote Testimony. Senate Education Committee  
Hearing. Wednesday, February 11, 1:30 pm, Room 144-S  
Mary Sinclair, PhD — Kansas PTA, Advocacy Team  
(on behalf of Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President)

Cyndie Rexer, Committee Assistant  
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Room 445-S, State Capitol Building

Honorable Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide remote testimony in opposition to the graduation requirements and curriculum mandates proposed, outside the authority of the State Board of Education, reflected in SB 381. Kansas PTA supports the work of the State Board of Education to set learning standards and establish graduation requirements, as well as the work of local districts to select the instructional resources that maximize their students' opportunities to achieve state education goals, within budget parameters.

This bill raises several concerns, **conflicting with the informed governance and authority of the state and locally elected school boards** and district leadership ([KS PTA Legislative Priority 1](#)). This bill:

- How does overlap with existing state educational standards - [History, Government, and Social Studies \(HGSS\) Kansas Education Standards](#) adopted by the State Board of Education?
- Where does the proposed Citizenship Test requirement come from, when the recent State Board of Education Task Force thorough review of Kansas high school graduation requirements did not? Is this even a Kansas issue?

Note, the [Kansas Constitution, Article VI](#), Sections 2 and 5, grants the following authority to boards of education:

- **State board of education** ... shall have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state, except educational functions delegated by law to the state board of regents.
- **Local public schools** under the general supervision of the state board of education shall be maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards.

When state or federal legislative bodies / entities, other than the State Board of Education, seek to mandate the operations of local school districts, unfunded or funded, these policies likely overstep the authority of locally elected school board members as defined in the state constitution.

**Local control refers** to this authority, autonomy, and legal power vested in local entities (such as city governments and school boards) to make decisions, enact regulations, and manage operations. Like all democratically elected bodies at the federal, state and local levels, decisions are made by majority rule determined at 50% or more of the body's vote, or some higher threshold.

Our public schools are the heart of Kansas communities, serving 90% of school age youth. Our teachers and administrators are committed to preparing all kids to thrive in work and in life. Creating opportunities for every child to engage and be successful serves to strengthen the viability of a thriving Kansas future.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge committee members, on behalf of the Kansas PTA, to vote no on SB 381. Please respect the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education and local school board members.

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Cc: Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA President  
Angie Gunion, VP of Advocacy  
Devin Wilson, Legislative Liaison

**THE PTA POSITION**

*Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child's potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.*