



Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponent Testimony (Written Only) SB 288

March 11, 2025

Submitted by: Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Superintendent

Email: tmerrigan@bluevalleyk12.org

Chair Warren and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for SB 288, prohibiting certain sex offenders from entering onto school property or attending school activities and creating criminal penalties for violation thereof.

The primary goal of the Blue Valley district is **to ensure every student attending our schools has the educational programming and opportunities, delivered by quality educators, to allow them to thrive long after they leave our doors.** We embrace the over 22,400 students and 3500 staff who walk through our doors each day and work to provide a safe and secure learning environment within our buildings. This bill will help to ensure that our parents, students and staff know that someone on the registered offender list is not in our schools or at school activities in our buildings.

Although we are in full support of a bill to provide a safe environment for all, we urge the committee to consider two important exceptions (outlined below) with strict conditions for entry into a school building.

- Enrollment of eligible students in a public school: We are legally required to educate all students who meet residency requirements. This includes students between the ages of 18 and 21 who may still be eligible for services and, in rare cases, may be listed on the registry.
- Parental Participation in Special Education Meetings: Federal law mandates that parents or guardians of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans be provided meaningful participation in their child's education. If a parent or guardian is on the registered offender list, the district is still required to ensure their involvement in these legally required meetings.

Again, we want to reiterate that we applaud the Senate Judiciary for discussing this bill and providing clarity around this issue for all schools in Kansas. Blue Valley is in support of this bill but respectfully requests additional clarity around the 2 groups outlined above. As a final thought, we want to express our appreciation to this committee for its work toward securing our schools. We look forward to continuing to work together to protect and support Kansas students.

USD 229 Blue Valley Schools: Quick Facts

K-12 Student Enrollment	21,767	ACT District Composite Average*	22.9
Early Childhood—grade 12 Enrollment	22,450	ACT Statewide Average	19.2
Average Daily Attendance	94.4%	SAT District Average	1357
Graduation Rate	96.7%	SAT Statewide Average	1256
Teacher's with Master's Degree or Higher	76%	*with 91.6 % of graduates taking ACT	