

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 361

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 361 would exempt foreign exchange students from public school district open-enrollment lotteries and authorize those students to enroll in the public school district in which their host family resides.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Titus.

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 3, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Starnes, a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards, and a private citizen whom identified themselves as a former state senator. The proponents generally stated the bill would address timing issues between school district open-enrollment lotteries and assignment and approval processes for foreign exchange students by exempting them from the lottery and treating them as residents of their host family's school district. The proponents noted that last session's budget bill contained a proviso with provisions similar to the bill.

No other testimony was provided.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the State Department of Education indicated that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Education; K-12 education; public schools; open enrollment; foreign exchange students