

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 515**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 515 would authorize nonpublic schools to permit students attending nonaccredited private elementary or secondary schools to participate in activities regulated and supervised by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA).

***Nonpublic Schools***

The bill would permit nonpublic schools to permit eligible students to participate in:

- Any activities offered by the nonpublic school that are regulated, supervised, promoted, and developed by KSHSAA;
- Any activity's events, ceremonies, programs, or other functions directly related to the KSHSAA activity in which an eligible student is participating and is sponsored by the nonpublic school; and
- Any school-sponsored events, ceremonies, programs, or other functions that are not directly related to the KSHSAA activity in which an eligible student is participating.

The bill would also allow the governing body of a nonpublic school to require a student participating in a

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\*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/>

permitted KSHSAA activity to enroll in or complete a particular course as a condition of participation, as long as such requirement is imposed upon all other students who participate in such activity.

### ***Student Eligibility***

The bill would require, for purposes of participation under the bill, that a student:

- Is a resident of Kansas;
- Is enrolled and attending a nonaccredited private elementary or secondary school;
- Meets any applicable age and eligibility requirements set forth by KSHSAA;
- Pays any fees required by the nonpublic school for participation in such activity, if such fees are generally imposed upon all other students who participate in such activity;
- Is permitted to participate in such activity by the governing body of the nonpublic school; and
- Is determined by the governing body of the nonpublic school to meet KSHSAA's academic eligibility requirements.

Any student seeking to participate in a KSHSAA activity under the bill would be subject to any tryout or other participation requirements that are otherwise applicable to all other student for participation in the activity.

Eligible students who participate in KSHSAA activities under the bill would also be entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of any other participating student, except as otherwise provided for by the bill, regardless of the student's enrollment status.

### ***Prohibition on Discrimination***

The governing body of a nonpublic school and KSHSAA would be prohibited from discriminating against any eligible student under the bill based upon such student's enrollment status.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Erickson.

### ***Senate Committee on Education***

At the Senate Committee hearing on March 9, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of Maranatha Christian Academy. The proponent generally stated that the bill would promote collaboration, strengthen education communities, and expand opportunities by allowing students attending nonaccredited private schools to participate in athletics, music, debate, and other programs at nonpublic schools.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Central Christian School.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of KSHSAA. The opponent generally stated that they were concerned about competitive fairness due to the density of private schools in urban areas and the potential displacement of students attending the nonpublic school in activities by students that do not attend the nonpublic school but only participates in an activity or activities at the school. The opponent also stated they believe the bill would disconnect athletics and activities from school learning.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a private citizen.

No other testimony was provided.

**Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, both the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Association of School Boards indicate that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Education; K-12; nonpublic schools; extracurricular activities; Kansas State High School Activities Association; participation; policies