

January 23, 2023

House Committee on Education

Chairman Thomas and House members

I appreciate the time you are taking to consider HB 2040. I am writing this letter in support of the proposed bill and plan to be at the hearing to offer personal support.

The state has wrestled with creating a funding formula and process that is supportive of all students in Kansas. As with any complex system, there are areas of strength and areas of concern. One area of concern for growing districts is the lag in funding for students who transfer into the district.

The communities of Gardner and Edgerton are growing quickly. We have numerous housing developments in various phases of completion and have several in the approval process. Most of our growth has been in Gardner, but we also have a new development of 275 houses planned for the city of Edgerton. This is the first development there in 15 years. We anticipate this growth to bring a steady stream of more students to USD 231 for the foreseeable future. While growth is exciting, it brings challenges as well.

One of our greatest challenges is educating students who are not funded by the state. Currently, when a family moves to our community, we educate their children, but the funding for that education stays in the community they came from. We provide their education without funding for the entire year. This lag can be even worse if the family comes after September. We will not get funding for those students for nearly two years.

HB 2040 provides a solution so growing communities like Gardner and Edgerton do not suffer for their growth. I urge you to consider this solution for our communities.

I appreciate the time you are taking to listen to the voices across Kansas for HB 2040.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Huff", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Brian Huff, EDD  
Superintendent  
Gardner Edgerton USD 231