



---

Senate Education Committee

Testimony: HB 2060—Special Education Task Force (proponent)

Presented by: Monica L. Ross, Program Coordinator of Infant-Toddler Services of Johnson County

March 15, 2023

Chair Baumgardner and members of the Committee:

My name is Monica Ross and I am the Program Coordinator for Infant-Toddler Services of Johnson County, the largest of 29 networks providing IDEA Part C early intervention services across the state of Kansas. I come before you today to ask that one member of the Special Education Task Force be an Infant-Toddler network coordinator represent special education services for children ages birth to three years.

Infant-Toddler networks (tiny-k) are required by IDEA to serve every child who is eligible if the parents want these services. A child is eligible for infant-toddler (tiny-k) services once a condition or disability causing a developmental delay or high probability of delay is identified. Infant-Toddler networks provide 17 different special education services for children from birth to three years.

Tiny-k networks are housed within either a local school district or educational service center which allows the early intervention program to receive special education funding for qualified personnel including early childhood special education teachers, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists and also helps cover travel expenses. This is crucial as services are completed in the child's natural environment which requires the child's early intervention provider travel to and from a child's home, childcare center, or community location.

Early intervention is an important investment for Kansas special education because of the money saved in the longer term. *Approximately 30% of children receiving early intervention in Kansas no longer qualify for services by their third birthdate. The investment in these specialized infant-toddler services results in significant cost savings in K-12 special education spending - literally saving thousands upon thousands of dollars in K-12 spending down the line.*

The tiny-k Alliance, of which I am a member, supports the creation of a special education task force to study special education funding and related services. **However, we are requesting one amendment and that is to require one member of the task force to be an Infant-Toddler network coordinator.** Including one of our members will ensure that appropriate focus is given to all children receiving special education services, including those ages birth to three years of age. Thank you for listening and for your focus on children with special needs.

6405 Metcalf, Ste 120, Overland Park, KS 66202

Phone: (913) 432-2900 Fax: (913) 432-2901

[www.itsjc.org](http://www.itsjc.org)