

Privacy issues in KIDS system raised

The House Education Committee held a hearing yesterday on HB 2606 which concerns the KIDS data system maintained by the State Department of Education. The system has been in place for several years and allows for the collection on longitudinal student data. The bill being heard enacts some additional privacy protections for identifiable student data and requires some additional reporting of any exceptions made to those rules. For the record, the state does not share identifiable student data but rather makes reports in the aggregate.

Opposition to the bill came from former State Board of Education member Walt Chappell and the Kansas Policy Institute who apparently see government conspiracies in the collection of data. When Deputy Commissioner of Education Dale Dennis asked if he knew why KPI appeared to object to the system, he responded that he did not know and that, indeed, KPI is a frequent user of the data system for their reports.

By the end of the hearing, it appeared that the majority of committee members were supportive of the KIDS system and confident that privacy was being adequately protected.

Transportation of students across district lines is back

House Bill 2454 had a hearing in the House Education Budget Committee yesterday. This bill would return the 10-mile rule to the law about how district buses could come into neighboring districts to pick up students. Under current law, neighboring districts can send in a bus to pick up students who live more than 2.5 miles from their resident school and transport them to a school in the neighboring district. HB 2454 would take the distance back to 10 miles.

The distance had been set at 10 miles until former Rep. Clay Aurand managed, after many tries, to convince the legislature to lower the distance to 2.5 miles. Aurand appeared before the committee to urge them not to go back to the higher distance while Superintendents Chuck Schmidt from Independence and Glenn

Supes from Smoky Valley were on hand to encourage the passage of the bill.

The bill would also remove the four county exceptions contained in current law. As it is now, the law does not apply to Johnson, Wyandotte, Sedgwick, and Shawnee Counties. This was apparently done years ago to protect districts that were under desegregation orders. Wichita USD 259 asked that the exceptions remain since that district still operates under such an order.

Sex Ed in House Ed

The House Education Committee held a hearing today on HB 2620, a bill changing participation in comprehensive sex education programs from an "opt-out" to an "opt-in" policy. The bill also requires that schools provide sex education curriculum materials to parents who wish to review them and to ensure that no curriculum materials are displayed such that a child who has not opted in to the program could see them.

KNEA testified against the change to opt-in, supported the materials review and raised concerns about the implementation of the materials display since that might mean a district would have to create a classroom specifically for the sex education program or require the teacher to continually put up or take down curriculum materials.

Appropriations adopts K-12 budget

The Appropriations Committee this morning adopted the report of their K-12 subcommittee (the Education Budget Committee). The report essentially tracks the Governor's budget recommendations with a couple of adjustments.

They reduced the money for National Board Certification from \$375,000 to \$327,500 and transferred the \$47,500 to maintenance of the KIDS system. The reduced amount is sufficient to cover the \$1000 stipend for all NBCTs and the cost of the scholarship program for the year.

The subcommittee recommended deleting the \$16.3 million for all-day kindergarten since no decision had been made on passing the recommendation. On a motion of Rep. Lunn, Chair of the All-Day K Committee, that money was restored. Lunn suggested that keeping the money in would demonstrate the

intent to look fairly at the all-day k proposal.

They created a "State Assessment Fund" and put \$1.1 million into it specifically to pay for the creation of new state assessments.

They also adopted the Governor's recommendation to send \$50,000 taken from the highway program back to the highway program and stop the promotion of the new technical education program.

The recommendations include funding for BSAPP at the level adopted last year including the small increase in 2015.

Senate Ed Committee might soon work charter school bill

The Senate Education Committee might decide to take action on the charter school bill that they heard last week.

We urge you to contact the members of the committee and ask them to reject SB 196 for the following reasons:

Studies show that states with multiple charter school authorizers - as called for in this bill - see reduced student achievement in charter schools.

Few charter schools outperform traditional public schools in student achievement and many perform much more poorly.

Where there is a rapid expansion of charter schools, they tend to re-segregate education.

Passage of SB 196 would allow all current private schools to become public charters eligible for state aid. This would force the legislature to either dramatically increase school funding overall or to cut aid to all schools.

Members of the committee are:

Sen. Steve Abrams [1]

Sen. Tom Arpke [2]

Sen. Anthony Hensley [3]

Sen. Dan Kerschen [4]

Sen. Jeff Melcher [5]

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer [6]

Sen. Pat Pettey [7]

Sen. Dennis Pyle [8]

Sen. Vicki Schmidt [9]

Sen. Caryn Tyson [10]

Sen. Kay Wolf [11]

To email a member of the committee, use the following protocol:
firstname.lastname@senate.ks.gov

1. <http://click.email.nea.org/?qs=493a67e2641444412d7bae82955a2faa1a75b281d2dbb1b5a8be179fa46f6daadd64cf7a899abaa>
2. <http://click.email.nea.org/?qs=493a67e264144441eb24ff7cc0fd34d241d6bf67fca20c205bfb0b422792116508b69fcc4dfd5197>
3. <http://click.email.nea.org/?qs=856d6a10e00316a9be7248c15b72f80d5e4b796c5d9eb0d097c8fd05f72d4c40387880822d6934ea>
4. <http://click.email.nea.org/?qs=856d6a10e00316a9343aea79391128a735e0ef42d966f2befe766aab7001c0354f02fe40617bb82e>
5. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a9ca79d4812db67b02b91527c326256a17d5931f3364a5eb99884e26086eb746f2

6. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a9047a3bce2ffb5cd7a402b8705fa2757689425b0e05ec1f82546f976365288edc

7. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a95995c2217669055ccc301a470081da7d888cd005b469d1e8e41925a472024ff2

8. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a97c92536b8e73702aaabd70360f7594ca309f073d0be13b9cf93b2cd4f9cf2776

9. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a9ba173d17068d42674731a1aa12e46b76b0fe4b4f6d0f7296f337c09b0b243ed6

10. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a9299de156db9cb2467bcac4f1597d3d81fdade356bfc9d5fc2ed9b05d7f0e75dd

11. <http://click.email.nea.org/?>

qs=856d6a10e00316a93c37d4a98225d91bb16032dc235655c3e66305157baac2fbb69e831b782e873e