

Blue Valley Schools

Board of Education

Legislative Update

March 8, 2021


REIMAGINING *learning* | CHANGING *the world*

Legislative Calendar

- **Friday, February 26, 2021**
 - Last day for non-exempt committees to complete their work on legislation that will advance for debate by full chambers
- **Week of March 1, 2021**
 - Floor debate of bills advancing from their chamber of origin
- **Friday, March 5, 2021**
 - Turnaround/midpoint
- **April 9, 2021**
 - First Adjournment
- **May 3, 2021**
 - Veto Session Begins



BOE Adopted Priority Positions

- Fund Special Education at Statutory Amounts & Expand Definition of At-Risk
 - Enhance Student Mental Health
 - Eliminate Tax Credits and Vouchers for Private Schools
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Blue Valley Testimony-Proponent

- [HB 2061](#) - Increasing the minimum age to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products from 18 to 21, and prohibiting cigarette vending machines and flavored vaping products.
- [HB 2340](#), Increasing the minimum age to 21 to purchase or possess cigarettes and tobacco products, including electronic products (vaping).
 - *House Federal & State Affairs recommended favorably*

Blue Valley Testimony - Opponent

- [SB 61](#), Amending the tax credit for low-income students scholarship program act to expand student eligibility.
 - *Passed Senate 23-14, House K12 Education Budget recommended favorably*
- [HB 2068](#) - Amending the tax credit for low-income students scholarship program act to expand student eligibility.
 - *House K12 Education Budget passed favorably*
- [HB 2119](#), Creating the student empowerment act to provide an education savings account for students who are academically at-risk.
 - *House K12 Education Budget passed favorably, as amended*

Substitute for HB 2119

- Retains the education savings accounts (ESAs) of the original bill with the following amendments:
 - Removed the remote and hybrid learning qualifier,
 - Inserted the contents of HB 2068, tax credit scholarships for low-income students;
 - Changed the implementation date for the ESAs to July 1, 2022

Substitute for HB 2119

- Added the Governor's budget recommendations, with the exception of removing the high-density at-risk weighting sunset.
- Governor's Budget included.
 - General state aid to fund the BASE approved by the *Gannon* school finance plan;
 - \$7.5 million increase in special education state aid each year; and,
 - Increases in LOB, capital improvement, and capital outlay state aid, and KPERS contributions, based on November school finance estimates.

Substitute for HB 2119

- Added that in 2022, from federal relief and ESSER funds, provide for the following:
 - Add \$5 million for school safety and security grants;
 - Add \$3.94 million for the school mental health pilot project;
 - Add \$466 thousand to implement Phase 3 of the School for the Deaf language program
- Recommended that school districts give \$500 bonuses to every classroom teacher that taught this school year, using federal relief and ESSER funds
- Permit KSDE to send money from check off fund to all school districts, as requested by KSDE.

Substitute for HB 2119

- Inserted the contents of HB 2067, requiring the allocation of sufficient school district funding to improve the academic performance of underachieving students;
- Reauthorized the statewide 20-mill tax levy for two years, with the homestead exemption;
- Added a requirement of 1,116 hours of in-person classroom instruction, effective July 1, 2021; and,
- Added that if a student has been in remote learning for > 240 hours under a state of emergency disaster or 40 hours when no state of disaster has been declared, the student should be counted for funding purposes in the current year as virtual.

General Info.

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LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

During each legislative session, updates are made to this page and include information regarding the latest legislative discussions taking place in Topeka. Contact information for Johnson County Legislators is available on the Legislative Officials link. We encourage you to review the Blue Valley School District's Legislative Positions as well. Thank you for your interest in learning more about issues facing the Blue Valley School District during the legislative session.

RESOURCES

- > Kansas State Board of Education
- > Kansas Legislators
- > Kansas Governor
- > Kansas Department of Education
- > Kansas Association of School Boards - News Briefs

USEFUL LINKS

- > Legislative Positions
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- > Priority Level Positions
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- > Legislative Officials
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- > Kansas House District Map
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- > Kansas Senate District Map
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