

Brooke Taylor – Parent of 4 Maize Virtual Preparatory School USD266 students
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Subject: **Proponent of HB 2506. Hearing January 24, 2024.** Request for Inclusion of Virtual Public Education Students in Residential School District Sports Programs.

My Name is Brooke Taylor and I am a parent of four children who are enrolled in Maize Virtual Preparatory School (USD266). I am writing to you today to express my sincere request for the inclusion of virtual public education students in residential school district sports programs.

I am a resident of Wellsville, KS, and my family pays more than half of our property taxes to support the education system provided by our residential school district. My children, including my oldest who has dyslexia and dysgraphia, have found great success and fulfillment in the virtual learning environment offered by Maize Virtual Preparatory School.

Each of my children is a non-traditional learner with unique strengths and challenges. My oldest child requires substantial assistance with all subjects due to learning differences, while my next three children are gifted learners. For example, my fourth grader is excelling in Algebra 1, and my third grader spends her free time writing fantasy novels.

Maize Virtual Preparatory School has proven to be the perfect educational fit for my children, allowing them to learn at their own pace and providing an environment that fosters their individual strengths. However, I believe that our residential school district's sports programs could further enhance their overall educational experience.

Participation in sports is not only a physical activity but also a valuable aspect of a child's holistic development. It instills qualities such as teamwork, discipline, and resilience, which are crucial for their future success. By allowing virtual public education students like mine to join residential school district sports programs, you would be providing them with additional opportunities for growth and social interaction.

Moreover, as taxpayers contributing significantly to our residential school district, it is only fair that our children have access to all the resources and extracurricular activities available, including sports programs.

I kindly request the House to consider this matter with empathy and understanding. I believe that allowing virtual public education students to participate in residential school district sports programs aligns with the principles of equal access to educational resources and opportunities for all students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brooke Taylor