

Testimony in Opposition to HB2361
The Massive Collection of Student & Family Data Must Stop
by
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In 2014, the Kansas legislature finally voted to make sure that parents have more control over their family and child's personal data. Over 200 Kansans packed the hearing room and first floor rotunda. The Student Data Privacy Act requires school districts to provide a copy of any survey to parents FIRST. If, after reading the survey, they chose to allow their child to answer the questions, then they can sign a form to **Opt-In**.

Just like HB2099 in 2015, HB2316 tries to fool the Legislature and parents into thinking that some bureaucrats and contractors should be trusted with private student and family data without the parent knowing how the data will be secured or used. This bill forces parents to be quick enough to **Opt-Out** before their child has already been given the survey and expected to complete it or else.

These surveys are not valid or reliable, but they provide pseudo data for these contractors to ask for millions in Federal grants—whether any students actually benefit or not. Most of the money received goes to hiring staff, sending them to conferences and writing good sounding reports.

How much longer will Kansas parents and the Legislature tolerate the massive amount of data being collected on every public and private school student and their family?

The Kansas Individual Data on Students (KIDS) database in the State Department of Education was initially funded by the US government in 2007. It is based on 28 pages containing 90 data elements which Federal bureaucrats want collected on each public and private school student in Kansas all the way through the next 23 years of their life.

Not only does it cost taxpayers millions of dollars every year for local school districts to report these data to the KSDE, but it also costs millions of dollars to maintain the database at the state level. Each data element is coded, yet there is no way to verify if the information entered is accurate.

Even worse, most parents have no idea that the data which they provided in good faith at the time of enrollment about their child is being sent outside the school district. No parental permission was requested or granted.

The KIDS database managers reported to the State Board of Education that there are nearly daily attempts by hackers to break in and steal these personal files. They do not know if files have already been stolen. But two attacks on data being collected about each student who took the Common Core state assessments were successful. The servers crashed and none of the test scores were valid or reported—but the data was hacked. It cost the state millions of dollars to fix plus student data was stolen.

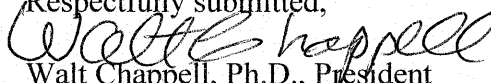
HB2361 again attempts to collect survey data about students and their families. The results are not used by the State Board of Education to make any decisions. The descriptors allow easy identification of individual students and their families. The questions asked are no one else's business and cannot be verified as accurate—yet bureaucrats want to keep giving the surveys so they can ask for more funding.

This bill tries to get around the data privacy protections passed into law in 2014 by asking parents to **“Opt-Out”** their student. Current law says that parents are to be provided with accurate information about any survey so they can decide if it is appropriate for their child to answer the questions.

It is time to end this nonsense. The breach of privacy is growing as more student and family data is leaving school districts to be stored and mined by third party contractors.

Just like HB2099 in 2015, please do NOT work or pass this bill!!!

Respectfully submitted,



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