



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

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Oral, Neutral Testimony before the

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

on

HB 2108 – Authorizing school districts to expend at-risk education funds on evidence-based learning programs

by

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Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear as neutral on **HB 2108**, authorizing school districts to expend at-risk education funds on evidence-based learning programs.

The Kansas Association of School Boards' member-adopted policy supports further initiatives to address student social, mental and physical health needs, in both schools and community settings, including a sustained and dedicated funding stream to promote evidence-based programs that address social, physical and emotional needs for all Kansas students.

We also note that Kansas districts have had success with specific targeted programs, including Jobs for America's Graduates; however, funding for these programs remains limited, far below the number of students who could benefit.

While Jobs for America's Graduates seems to have delivered positive results and shows how additional funding helps at-risk students succeed, so do many other programs used in Kansas schools and we are reluctant to see a specific program enshrined in statute.

In addition, some school districts are already using at-risk money to support their students participation in programs like JAG-K, rendering the reference unnecessary.

For these reasons, we are neutral on SB 16. I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.