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To: Special Committee on Education

From: Craig Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner
KSDE Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Subj: Remote Learning and Quarantine

Chair Williams and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee about the impact of remote learning and quarantine in school districts.

House Bill 2134 defines remote learning as a method of providing education in which the student, regularly enrolled in the school district, does not physically attend the attendance center on a full-time basis, and curriculum and instruction are prepared, provided and supervised by teachers and staff of such school district to approximate the learning experience that would take place in the classroom.

Under the provisions of HB 2134, school districts may not provide more than 40 hours (approximately one week) of remote learning for any student. If that limit is exceeded, the student will be reported to KSDE at the end of the school year and funding will be adjusted to \$5,000 for a full-time FTE rather than the BASE plus weightings. Part-time remote learning students are funded only for the portion of time they are in a traditional learning environment. If the average 2021-22 student were switched from traditional to remote funding, the district would see a reduction of \$2,064 due to the loss of weightings.

When students are unable to attend school for a period of time, remote learning may be the most effective option to provide education for the student. Under HB 2134, if the student is absent due to injury, illness, medical condition or other extraordinary circumstance, the local board of education may temporarily exempt the student from the 40-hour limit. These students continue to be funded as traditional students. Quarantines have been interpreted to be extraordinary circumstances for this purpose.

School districts are required to report students exempted from the 40-hour limit to the State Board of Education. In order to protect student privacy, local school boards do not identify individual students in open session, and school districts will submit this report electronically to the state board using an online web application with built-in security protocols.

For more information, contact:

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T:Legislative Session/2022/Interims/Spec Comm/Testimony/ KSDE Testimony-Remote Lrn Quarantine

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