

SESSION OF 2021

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 51**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 51 would direct the State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to collaboratively prepare the Kansas Foster Care Children Annual Academic Report Card (Report Card).

The Report Card would be produced annually and contain the following information from the previous school year for students in foster care:

- Graduation rate;
- State standardized assessment scores;
- Total and disaggregated numbers enrolled in a school district or accredited nonpublic school;
- De-identified disaggregated race and ethnic data for specific data sets;
- Additional data elements deemed appropriate by KSDE and DCF; and
- Number and percentage of students in foster care:
  - Promoted to the next grade level;
  - Suspended (including duration);
  - Expelled;
  - Meeting academic standards;

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Enrolled in preschool aged at-risk programs, preschool pilot program, or early childhood special education program; and
- Participated in the mental health intervention team pilot program or similar mental health program.

The bill would require the Report Card be completed on or before January 15 each year and submitted to the Senate Standing Committee on Education and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education.

The bill would define “school” as any school within a school district or nonpublic school accredited by the state and “student in foster care” as an individual within the custody of DCF while attending school at any point during a school year in which the Report Card is required to be completed.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Baumgardner.

[*Note:* The bill is identical to Section 7 of 2020 HB 2510 that was vetoed by the Governor and later implemented by Executive Order 20-53 (July 7, 2020).]

## ***Senate Committee on Education***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of DCF, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, and Kansas Association of School Boards. Written-only **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Children’s Alliance of Kansas. The proponents generally stated the Report Card will help identify academic gaps among students in the foster care system so that the gaps can be addressed.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the State Board of Education (Board). The neutral testimony generally stated the Board sees value in the Report Card for helping students in foster care achieve greater academic success; however, it is not one of the Board's legislative priorities.

No **opponent** testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, the KSDE and DCF state the bill would have no fiscal impact on the agencies.

Education; foster care; report card; Department for Children and Families; State Department of Education