

I am writing to express my concern regarding HB 2662. My greatest concern is the potential violation of student confidentiality, especially in small districts such as my own. Teachers often use different materials to meet the needs of their students, particularly those with learning differences. If a 5th grade teacher lists kindergarten level material on the parent transparency portal, then it becomes obvious to anyone who views the portal that there is a student in 5th grade who is functioning far below grade level. In a small community like Satanta, it would not be difficult to determine who that child is, which is a violation of that child's confidentiality. While my district works hard to maintain an open relationship with parents (through posted lesson plans, newsletters, parent teacher conferences, and digital communication), we do so in ways that protect student confidentiality.

Furthermore, this bill places a burden on teachers and other school staff who are already overworked. Teachers are leaving the classroom at higher rates than ever. This is not time to add more work to teachers' already full plates.

Additionally, this bill could discourage teachers' creativity and adaptability. If teachers have to update the portal every time they use a new resource, they will be less likely to adapt their instruction in light of student interests and abilities. Teachers who differentiate instruction by using different materials for different students will have a heavier burden than those who teach cookie-cutter lessons that don't take into account learning differences. As a result, this bill discourages good teaching practices.

In my school, the kindergarten teachers read students' library books out loud to them every day. Do these books need to be listed on the parent portal? Our older students choose their own books for independent projects. High school students find their own sources for research projects. Do all of these materials need to be listed on the portal? I believe the requirements of this bill are simply impractical.

Kansas teachers are working hard to meet the needs of their students. They are constantly redesigning their lessons to help their students learn. They stay late and work weekends, spending money out of their own pockets to create the best learning environment for their students. Let's reward their hard work and creativity rather than piling on more work.

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