**THE BILLS & PTA POSITION.** Key votes are reviewed to profile current Kansas legislators’ positions on public education policy. The past several legislative sessions have been alarming, in part, for their repeated attempts to diminish the K-12 public school system, often in the name of *reform.*¹ This Vote Count reflects the scope of policy positions pushed by legislative leadership, which run in opposition to nearly all of Kansas PTA Legislative Priorities² and often originate from the pool of ALEC³ free-market template bills. Over a dozen votes since 2011 are presented here, though not intended to be a comprehensive list. Half of the bills were worked through both chambers, but a number of critical single-chamber votes are included as well.

This Vote Count profile starts with PTA Legislative Priority 1 and the block grant vote to repeal the 1992 school finance formula and ends with our Priority 10 and the vote to prohibit local schools boards from establishing their own weapons policies to keep schools safe. A green ✔ indicates a vote in alignment with Kansas PTA’s pro-public education legislative platform and a red X indicates a vote against PTA pro-public education positions.

### PTA Legislative Priorities & Key Votes

1. **Equitable & Adequate School Finance Formula**
   - 2015 H Sub SB 7 Repealed the constitutionally sound 1992 school finance formula and replaced with the unconstitutional block grants, freezing public education state aid for three years.⁴

2. **Uphold Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution**
   - 2015 HB 2104 Moved local school board elections to the partisan fall cycle, in opposition to educators and local communities.⁵

3. **Support State Education Standards**
   - 2016 Sub Sub HB 2292 (House only) Attempted to ban Common Core education standards, including a ban on advanced academics (IB, AP, ACT) and Kansas College & Career Ready Education Standards.⁷

4. **Oppose Vouchers, Tax Credit Scholarships**
   - 2014 S Sub HB 2306 | 2015 S Sub HB 2109 Established the voucher-like Tax Credit Scholarship program, diverting public funds with a 70% tax credit for payment into a scholarship for private school tuition and then expanded the program to include higher income students and tax credit for tithing.⁸

5. **Maintain Quality Charter School Guidelines**
   - 2013 HB 2319 Established the Innovative School Districts program, essentially chartering school districts all at once, using a partisan approval process and teacher licensure waivers.¹⁰

6. **Promote Professional Teaching Communities, Recruitment & Retention of Educators**
   - 2011 Sub HB 2229 (House only) | 2013 HB 2221 | 2016 SB 469 (Senate only) Attempted to undermine the Professional Negotiations Act (PNA) by hindering the process for teacher representation.¹¹

7. **Promote Safe School Communities**
   - 2015 SB 45 Legalized conceal and carry of guns on college campuses, effective 2017, overruling local weapons policies.¹⁵

   - 2016 HB 2502 Restricted local school board control over district weapons policies, prohibiting school districts from adopting policies preventing possession or use of air guns on school property.¹⁶

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**Advanced Voting for Primaries begins July 13 thru Aug 2**

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Publication of Kansas PTA Advocacy Team (2016). Denise Sultz, Josh Halperin, Devin Wilson, Mary Sinclair, PhD
With Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities, over the past six years, only a quarter (26%) of Johnson County legislators supported pro-public education policies in alignment with Kansas PTA legislative platform and priorities.