

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Kristey S. Williams
Representative, 77th District

September 8, 2021

Chairperson Ty Masterson
Legislative Coordinating Council
Room 332-E, Statehouse

Dear Chairperson Masterson:

I respectfully request authorization for a Special Committee on Education to meet during the 2021 Interim for studying the academic achievement of students after the increased funding approved by the *Gannon* cases. This request seeks the approval of not more than two meeting days.

The *Kansas Constitution* states that the "Legislature shall provide for intellectual, educational, vocational and scientific improvement by establishing and maintaining public schools." The Kansas Supreme Court, in *Gannon IV*, charged the Legislature to fund schools at an adequate level that ensured all Kansas public school students met academic standards. Therefore, the purpose of the Special Committee would be to examine the issue of academic achievement in K-12 education after the *Gannon* decisions, including how improvement is defined, recognized, and monitored.

The Special Committee would accomplish this examination of academic achievement by reviewing the following topics:

- Funding increases approved under the *Gannon* decisions;
- Legislation related to longitudinal reporting from 2015 to 2021;
- Kansas State Department of Education rules and regulations updates in 2021 related to achievement;
- The State Board of Education's legislation priorities for the 2022 Session;
- Kansas State Department of Education priorities from the 50-stop Success Tour;
- Achievement expectations and funding for at-risk students; and
- Constitutional roles of the Legislature, State Board of Education, and local school boards.

I request the topic of academic achievement in K-12 education be studied further and interested parties be provided the opportunity to express their views on the listed topics.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristey Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristey Williams, Chairperson
House Committee on K-12
Education Budget

cc: Representative Ron Ryckman, Vice-chairperson
Senator Dinah Sykes, Senate Minority Leader
Representative Tom Sawyer, House Minority Leader
J.G. Scott, Director of Legislative Research
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Tom Day, Director of Legislative Administrative Services