



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2710		DATE: 1/28/2026
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: BECKY LOHMANN		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI CENTURY FOUNDATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65203
EMAIL: becky@csga.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 9:38 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

House Bill 2710 requires the State Board of Education to develop a report card accountability system for every school district, public school, and public charter school in Missouri. If passed, this legislation will be a huge benefit to all Missouri families and taxpayers. Our current system providing accountability information is difficult to navigate and is not easily accessible. There is a lot of data within the annual performance reports, but they do not give a clear, concise picture of how a particular school or district performs, nor do they allow for easy comparison. The requirements of HB 2710 would give families a clear picture of both achievement and growth in core subjects with meaningful data and an A through F scale. Transparency plays a large part in improving school performance. When data is readily available and easily compared, it becomes clear which schools and districts are succeeding and achieving better academic outcomes. Missouri had made good progress over the last few years in giving our families more choices in education. HB 2710 would be a significant step forward and provide a valuable tool to all Missourians.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CORY KOEDEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ERIC SCROGGINS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-356-4784	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: THE OPPORTUNITY TRUST		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 5501 DELMAR BLVD., STE. A300			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JIM MALLE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ALIGNED		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY	
ADDRESS: 6208 LARAN AVENUE			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: LESLIE KOHLMAYER		PHONE NUMBER: 816-606-1646	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SHOW ME KC SCHOOLS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2201 LEXINGTON AVE.			
CITY: KANSAS CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64123
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MAURI G. SCOTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-335-0204
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CHARTER SCHOOLS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 5022 DURANT AVENUE - F1.1		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63115
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHAWNTAY VAUGHN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STACEY MELERINE		PHONE NUMBER: 318-453-9753	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LOUISIANA BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 201 N. THIRD ST.			
CITY: BATON ROUGE		STATE: LA	ZIP: 70820
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TRICIA WORKMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-4430
REPRESENTING: MO CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 115 E. HIGH		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANDERSON KIMBALL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am a Missouri public schools graduate who has seen an uneven playing field for many districts in rural and urban areas across the state. Those districts haven't been given sufficient support to have the same achievement as districts in higher income areas. This bill's reward system that will give funding to schools to reward higher achievement will continue to increase the achievement and opportunity gap between high and low income students. This system won't lead to improved results and outcomes for lower achieving districts, it'll just punish them for teaching kids who are disadvantaged. The reason for public school is so every child can have equal access to a quality education, and punishing lower performing districts does not achieve that aim.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:31 PM	
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I am Opposed to this Bill. This is a Duplication of Reporting and Scores already being performed and on the Department's Website.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVA-LEIGH BRUSH		PHONE NUMBER: 314-600-6018
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI EQUITY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1352		
CITY: ST. CHARLES		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63302
EMAIL: dlb@missouriequity.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:39 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Missouri Equity Education Partnership opposes this bill. We are concerned that this system widen an equity gap in many areas. It could lead to re-segregation, and also harm rural schools. We agree that accountability needs to be addressed, but do not believe this is the case.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DR. WILL NUNN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 10:30 AM	

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My Missouri Representatives, please take note that schools are not like businesses; we do not build widgets, but we develop people. We work with parents and the community to meet our students where there are and ensure that our students are increasingly successful and meeting their highest potentials. I know many of our representatives looking at school funding may not be from an educational background, so they might expect that tighter and clearer forms of accountability will help form a competitive atmosphere where schools will achieve more. However, schools thrive in a cooperative environment, since all of Missouri's kids are all of our kids, and if schools are treated as a public service and are funded fully, we will see greater student achievement.

Also, I am incredibly concerned about the A-F simplified reporting card for schools proposed by HB 2710. Local Education Agencies (School Districts) with more mobile and more struggling students need more funding, not less, and defining these districts as "failing" for students who are not yet successful is going to likely compound the issue. If students are not being successful, they need more supports, and I'm concerned that instead the opposite is going to happen - that schools deemed "failing" are going to be at risk instead for decreased funding, which will ultimately just leave those kids behind. The proposals from this simplified reporting system and its implications for school districts will likely mean that rural school districts, that struggle with funding already, will face even tighter fiscal restraints and thus will be able to offer fewer opportunities for our Missouri students. Also, this bill will likely advantage school districts who already have the privileges of a highly educated community who is incredibly invested in their children's education.

If we want to have better accountability for schools, please ensure that we are coupling that with higher supports for schools, as well. We produce the leaders of the future, not corn or automobiles, and unlike those other, important industries, our incoming product varies every year, and our outgoing product must be prepared for obstacles that do not yet exist. Please fund public schools as a vital public service, for that is what our schools truly are. Please seek accountability measures that also provide support to our students who struggle so that all Missouri students are able to be highly successful.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JERE HOCHMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 3:17 PM	

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Until DESE, a task force of educators including teachers and principals, and presentations by experts (non-partisan) research this, this bill should NOT be passed.

The scope of data cited in the legislation is too narrow and some are practices not supported by research.

Examine the states using this approach - quantity and quality. That is not a bandwagon to jump on. Some states that used grades have DROPPED this approach. Mississippi which claims this contributed to their "Miracle" has now seen their performance scores dropping.

Assessment Measures to compile the grades will continue to perpetuate the curriculum narrowing and culture of testing and daily assessments we have experienced since 2002 (NCLB).

Taking all of those measures and compressing them into a letter grade tells parents and the community (and realtors) creates a false impression of a school, particularly those working vigorously to focus on GROWTH. A school could demonstrate growth but if all the community sees is a "C" or "D" grade, they have no idea how fervently the teachers and administration are working for improvement.

Second - this will be used as fodder for the charter school lobby and their consistent misrepresentation of the quality and performance of the public school.

Third - this will be used as fodder for politicians to use to promote the use of PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS FOR PRIVATE and PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS which counters the support for public schools who are underfunded with little light at the end of the tunnel.

This will not benefit every school district in the state.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 10:04 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I strongly oppose House Bill 2710. While framed as "accountability," this bill codifies a punitive, test-and-punish model that has failed students and communities for decades.

This system is fundamentally inequitable. It doubles down on high-stakes standardized testing, which is a proven measure of socioeconomic status, not student potential. By basing ratings and funding primarily on these scores, the bill systematically disadvantages under-resourced schools, punishing those already struggling with structural inequities. The proposed "Show Me Success Program" exacerbates this by creating a financial reward system for schools already likely to score well, robbing needy schools of vital resources.

Furthermore, the narrow metrics of "success"—test scores and a limited set of postgraduate outcomes—ignore the holistic purpose of education. It reduces our children to data points, pushing out arts, civics, critical thinking, and social-emotional learning to chase a letter grade. The "Success Ready Graduate" measure, while including some positive pathways, remains a restrictive, one-size-fits-all framework.

True accountability means investing in what we know works: fully funding all schools, supporting qualified teachers with competitive pay, reducing class sizes, and providing wraparound services. This bill offers none of that. It is an austerity-driven mechanism designed to stigmatize public education and justify further disinvestment or privatization, not to uplift every child. We must reject this regressive approach and fight for a system that nurtures all students, not just those who test well.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL COMPTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WARRENSBURG	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: mike@act4mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 10:03 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 2710.

HB 2710 establishes a mandatory statewide A–F grading system for every public school, charter school, and district (§160.524.5). While “transparency” sounds appealing, the bill does not simply publish information; it imposes a state-controlled label that will inevitably drive decisions in classrooms and at the local level. The score is built around achievement and growth metrics tied to standardized testing and state-defined “proficiency” (§160.524.7–10). This framework resembles the broader Common Core-era approach: centralized standards, high-stakes testing, and bureaucratic measurement that displaces common-sense instruction in core academics.

HB 2710 also creates coercive test-pressure by downgrading any school or district one letter grade if it does not test 95% of students (§160.524.6(2)). That may sound like an accountability measure, but in practice it is a blunt instrument that prioritizes compliance over the real educational needs of students.

The bill then adds “performance pay” dynamics through the Show Me Success Program (§160.524.6(3)), which would (if funded) provide per-student payments to top-ranked schools and requires the money be used for nonrecurring staff bonuses. This is a major red flag. Paying bonuses based on rankings tied to test metrics invites:

- teaching-to-the-test and narrowing of curriculum,
- gaming and strategic behavior to protect scores,
- inequities between communities, and
- politicized pressure on educators and administrators.

HB 2710 further embeds national/international credential signaling into state scoring by treating success as including AP, dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate participation (§160.524.8(3)(b)). Even if some of these programs can be beneficial for certain students, it is inappropriate for the state to hard-wire these pathways into the accountability system as a preferred model of “success.”

Another serious concern is the bill’s reliance on vague determinations of “living-wage career” to be set

by governmental or nongovernmental organizations (§160.524.11). This invites ideological bias and shifting definitions that parents and taxpayers do not control.

Finally, HB 2710 includes an automatic “ratchet” that raises the grading thresholds when too many schools earn A or B (§160.524.14). That is a built-in moving goalpost that undermines trust and turns school grades into a political instrument instead of a stable measure of improvement.

Missouri parents want strong academics, real local control, and honest transparency. HB 2710 moves the opposite direction: a top-down grading regime, test-driven incentives, and policy hooks that resemble the Common Core accountability ecosystem under a new name. Please vote NO on HB 2710.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 10:03 PM	

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I strongly oppose House Bill 2710. While framed as "accountability," this bill codifies a punitive, test-and-punish model that has failed students and communities for decades.

This system is fundamentally inequitable. It doubles down on high-stakes standardized testing, which is a proven measure of socioeconomic status, not student potential. By basing ratings and funding primarily on these scores, the bill systematically disadvantages under-resourced schools, punishing those already struggling with structural inequities. The proposed "Show Me Success Program" exacerbates this by creating a financial reward system for schools already likely to score well, robbing needy schools of vital resources.

Furthermore, the narrow metrics of "success"—test scores and a limited set of postgraduate outcomes—ignore the holistic purpose of education. It reduces our children to data points, pushing out arts, civics, critical thinking, and social-emotional learning to chase a letter grade. The "Success Ready Graduate" measure, while including some positive pathways, remains a restrictive, one-size-fits-all framework.

True accountability means investing in what we know works: fully funding all schools, supporting qualified teachers with competitive pay, reducing class sizes, and providing wraparound services. This bill offers none of that. It is an austerity-driven mechanism designed to stigmatize public education and justify further disinvestment or privatization, not to uplift every child. We must reject this regressive approach and fight for a system that nurtures all students, not just those who test well.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL HARRIS		PHONE NUMBER: 615-202-3579	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 407 S. 6TH STREET			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: mharris@msta.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 9:55 AM	

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MSTA supports accountability systems that genuinely improve student learning and don't disagree that the current accountability model has its issues. However, our adopted resolutions clearly oppose systems that rely on high-stakes, test-driven measures that do not include local input and buy in. This bill pushes Missouri toward an accountability model that oversimplifies student performance and ignores critical factors such as poverty, staffing shortages, class size, and access to resources. Educators should not be held accountable for conditions they do not control. MSTa has consistently affirmed that accountability must be based on multiple measures and used to identify support needs. Punitive accountability systems narrow curriculum, increase burnout, and drive experienced teachers out of the profession. Subsection 14 builds an automatic escalator into the accountability system that raises standards every time schools improve. That means success today guarantees a higher bar tomorrow, no matter how well schools are actually serving students. This isn't accountability, it's creating a moving target. No other public system works this way, we don't raise the passing score for driver's licenses, professional exams, or safety standards just because people improve. This provision guarantees failure by design, punishes progress, and turns accountability into a moving target instead of a fair measure of performance. This provision punishes creates an accountability system designed to label schools as failing even when outcomes improve. Missouri needs an accountability system focused on improvement, support, and investment and not punishment.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA DANIEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 12:40 PM	
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I oppose this bill since it undermines local control of a school board. Schools should not be judged solely on state-mandated, standardized tests. Schools have no control over the ability of their pupils or the family situations, or if the pupils don't speak English as a first language or if they are special needs. Please do not vote in favor of this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 1:34 PM
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HB 2710 does not improve education—it grades it into submission.

Missouri already reports school performance data; this bill merely converts complex realities into letter grades and attaches financial consequences without addressing root causes.

Schools serving high-need students are structurally penalized, while those with existing advantages are rewarded.

Accountability without investment, context, or capacity is not reform—it is political theater.

Missouri’s obligation is to educate children, not rank schools for optics.

Vote NO on HB 2710.

HB 2710 raises serious concerns under Article IX of the Missouri Constitution, which requires the state to maintain a system of public education that is general, suitable, and efficient.

An accountability framework that publicly penalizes schools based primarily on standardized outcomes—without ensuring equal capacity, resources, or conditions—undermines suitability and efficiency rather than advancing them.

Additionally, federal education law under ESSA explicitly discourages single-indicator accountability systems and requires consideration of growth, context, and subgroup protections.

By emphasizing letter grades and relative rankings, HB 2710 risks incentivizing exclusionary practices that conflict with the spirit, if not the letter, of federal accountability standards.

In short: measurement divorced from equity is not neutral—it is legally and structurally suspect.

If letter grades fixed schools, Missouri wouldn’t be here.

-Rev. Sarah M. Berry



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2026 7:21 PM	
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This would usurp local control.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2710		DATE: 1/28/2026
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: KELLI JONES		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-4445
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION		TITLE: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2710		DATE: 1/28/2026
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: MIKE LODEWEGEN		PHONE NUMBER: (573) 638-2692
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 3550 AMAZONAS DRIVE		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2710		DATE: 1/28/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elementary and Secondary Education			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PERRY GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-4445	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION		TITLE: CHIEF OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			