2019-20 KASB Legislative Committee
Preliminary report following Aug. 24 meeting

Part 1:
The committee directs KASB staff to review current state and federal resolutions adopted in December 2018 and recommend changes based on positions that are outdated due to Legislative action or other developments.

Part 2:
The committee tentatively recommended the following concepts for possible conclusion in a new resolution, pending further feedback from members:

Add under “Give All Students the Opportunity to Succeed” (page 2 of current state resolution)

New bullet point: Education of Immigrant Students.

Concept:
Support efforts to provide safe, secure, humane treatment and minimize trauma of immigrant children, whether in detention or in public schools. Lack of these conditions inhibits the ability of children to learn and function. Public schools are required to serve undocumented children under the United States Supreme Court’s 1982 Plyler v. Doe decision and are held accountable for the education of all students, regardless of their legal status, under state and federal law.

From KASB statement issues in July:
KASB stands with the National School Boards Association in recognizing that the inhumane treatment of children and their families seeking entry or asylum into the United States is traumatic for the children and their families. Lack of adequate food, housing, health care, basic hygiene, educational services and social and emotional support causes trauma that severely inhibits children’s ability to learn and function. This issue is specifically a concern to KASB because we know some of these children have attended and will in the future attend Kansas schools. We know that because of these traumatic experiences, these children will require special attention to recover, learn and hopefully lead successful lives.

Add under “Increase Support for Student Health and Safety” (page 2 of current state resolution)

New Bullet Point: Electronic nicotine delivery devices.

Concepts:
Support the work of the State Task Force on Vaping/E-cigarettes in Schools to improve education and awareness of the physical and psychological damage caused by tobacco and electronic nicotine delivery devices.

Support efforts to raise the age for tobacco purchases and electronic nicotine delivery systems to 21.

Support action by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) to prohibit tobacco use and the use of electronic nicotine delivery devices at school activities.
New Bullet Point: **Epinephrine kits.**

Concepts:
Support efforts to clarify that schools may maintain epinephrine kits to treat undiagnosed life-threatening allergic reactions in students or for the emergency treatment of students whose prescribed epinephrine kits are not readily available or have expired.

New Bullet Point: **Bullying and Harassment**

Concepts:
Support the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying to develop strategies to protect all students from bullying and harassment of any kind. Possible changes in required state law and regulations should retain flexibility for local boards to implement policies, and support for professional development and programming promoting prevention and restoration to supplement the district’s disciplinary response to bullying behaviors.

**Part 3:**

Several other issues were raised by KASB members during regional roundtable meetings this summer and by the Legislative Committee. The committee is seeking general feedback on these topics before its November meeting.

**Medicaid Expansion**

Concepts:
Support efforts to expand Medicaid to help ensure students receive medical and other services they require to come to school physically and mentally healthy and able to learn.

Medicaid expansion will help support the health care infrastructure, particularly in rural communities, to maintain providers and services for children and families.

Expanding access to medical care may reduce the cost of school-based medical care to students who lack access to necessary treatment in the community and reduce physical and mental health issues that interfere with learning.

**Protections for students, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

Concepts:
Support policies that specifically prohibit harassment and bullying based on race, color, religion, national origin, economic status, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity to ensure the physical and emotional safety of Kansas students.

Preliminary research indicates listing groups that have historically experienced discrimination may reduce victimization of those groups, including those with high rates of depression and suicide.

Although the issue has not been resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court, many courts are ruling that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity violates federal law and finding school districts liable for failing to protect such students.