**POLICY POSITION ON CHAMPIONING TRANSPARENCY IN CURRICULUM, BUDGET, AND DATA COLLECTION**

**Introduction**

As a candidate for the Leavenworth School Board in Kansas, I pledge to prioritize transparency in our schools’ curriculum, budget, and data collection practices. Parents, guardians, and voters deserve clear, accessible information to actively participate in shaping our children’s education. My commitment is rooted in the principles of the U.S. Constitution, Kansas state law, and the fundamental right of our community to hold public institutions accountable.

**Legal and Constitutional Basis**

**U.S. Constitution, First Amendment**: The First Amendment guarantees parents and voters the right to free speech and to petition the government for redress of grievances, enabling informed public discourse through transparent school policies.1

**U.S. Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment**: The Due Process Clause ensures fairness in public institutions, requiring transparent processes in curriculum, budgeting, and data collection to uphold equitable governance.2

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**: FERPA protects student privacy while ensuring parents’ access to their children’s educational records, reinforcing parental oversight.[^3]

**Kansas Open Records Act (KORA)**: KORA grants public access to school district records, ensuring transparency in public education.4

**Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA)**: KOMA mandates open school board meetings to foster public participation and accountability.5

**Kansas Education Law**: Kansas law empowers school boards to oversee curriculum and budgets with a responsibility to act transparently.6

**My Transparency Platform**

1. Curriculum Transparency

* Goal: Ensure parents and voters have full access to curriculum details to build trust and encourage involvement.
* Commitments:
  + Advocate for publishing all curriculum frameworks, syllabi, and instructional materials (textbooks, digital resources, and supplemental materials) on the district website within 30 days of adoption, in line with Kansas curriculum standards.7
  + Push for a clear process allowing parents to review and comment on proposed curriculum changes at public board meetings, with at least 14 days’ notice, as required by KOMA.8
  + Propose annual curriculum forums to discuss educational standards and content with our community.
* Why It Matters: Parental rights to guide their children’s education, upheld in *Troxel v. Granville*, and Kansas curriculum oversight laws demand openness.9

2. Budget Transparency

* Goal: Make the district’s budget clear and accessible to ensure fiscal responsibility to taxpayers.
* Commitments:
  + Support posting the annual budget, with detailed line items, revenue, and expenditures, on the district website in a user-friendly format (e.g., searchable PDF, 2 click rule) within 7 days of approval, per Kansas budget publication requirements.10
  + Promote quarterly public budget reviews at board meetings, with opportunities for community input, as mandated by KOMA.11
  + Advocate for online disclosure of contracts, grants, and financial agreements over $10,000, compliant with KORA.12
* Why It Matters: Kansas law requires transparent financial reporting, and taxpayers deserve oversight of public spending.13

3. Data Collection Transparency

* Goal: Protect student privacy by informing parents about data collection practices.
* Commitments:
  + Ensure annual notifications to parents about student data collection, including purpose, storage, and third-party access, per FERPA and the Kansas Student Data Privacy Act.14
  + Advocate for a public data inventory on the district website, listing data categories, retention periods, and security measures, as required by Kansas law.15
  + Push for parental consent for non-mandatory surveys or third-party data sharing, with clear opt-out options, per Kansas privacy law.16
* Why It Matters: FERPA and Kansas privacy laws empower parents to control their children’s data, and transparency ensures compliance and trust.17

**My Plan for Implementation**

* Transparency Available Online: I will champion for improvement to the online portals available to the schools and the district for curriculum, budget, and data information, ensuring easy access in compliance with KORA.18 Simple, clear and accurate.
* Community Involvement: I propose an increase in community involvement, including parents, educators (past and present), and voters, to guide and improve transparency practices.
* Staff Training: I will advocate for annual training for district staff on KORA, KOMA, and Kansas Student Data Privacy Act obligations to ensure compliance at all echelons.19 Accountable and compliant.
* Annual Audits: I will support yearly audits of transparency practices including results shared publicly at board meetings, per KOMA.20 The law is clear and it must be followed.

**My Pledge to You**

As your school board member, I will work to ensure Leavenworth operates with openness and accountability. Transparency is the foundation of trust between our schools and our community. By upholding the U.S. Constitution and Kansas law, we empower parents and voters to be active partners in children’s education. Together, we can build a stronger, community empowered school district.

**Endnotes**

1: U.S. Const. amend. I. 2: U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1. 3: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (1974). 4: Kansas Open Records Act, Kan. Stat. Ann. § 45-215 et seq. (1983). 5: Kansas Open Meetings Act, Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4317 et seq. (1977). 6: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1138 (2017). 7: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1151 (2005). 8: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4318 (1977). 9: *Troxel v. Granville*, 529 U.S. 57 (2000); Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1138. 10: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1167 (2016). 11: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4318. 12: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 45-221 (1983). 13: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1167. 14: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; Kansas Student Data Privacy Act, Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6312 et seq. (2014). 15: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6314 (2014). 16: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6316 (2014). 17: *Gonzaga University v. Doe*, 536 U.S. 273 (2002); Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6312 et seq. 18: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 45-215 et seq. 19: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 45-215 et seq.; Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4317 et seq.; Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-6312 et seq. 20: Kan. Stat. Ann. § 75-4318.