



**Markley Strategies Weekly Legislative Report
Veto Session
April 11, 2026
Blue Valley School District**

UNDER THE DOME

The Kansas Legislature reconvened for Veto Session on Thursday, April 9 and adjourned Sine Die early in the morning on Saturday, April 11, 2026. It was a whirlwind two days. Here are some highlights.

VETO OVERRIDE ATTEMPTS

As Veto session was set to begin, Governor Kelley had signed 75 bills into law and vetoed 27.

The legislature attempted to override several of those vetoes. All of the override attempts related to education were within the Governor's line-item vetoes of the budget.

BUDGET

HB 2513

In addition to her vetoes of specific bills, the Governor vetoed 39 line-items in the budget. Here is her [press release](#) regarding the budget process. In addition, you can download her explanation of the line item vetoes [here](#).

The legislature attempted to override 18 of her Budget Vetoes. The updates below are from education-related veto attempts.

Education-related override attempts that FAILED (Will Not be Included in Budget)

- *Sec. 72(l) and 74(p), KDHE-Health and KDHE: Immunization schedules. Add language for FY 2027 directing the agency to implement the child, adolescent, and adult immunization schedules from the CDC that are in effect at CDC on July 1, 2026.*
VETO SUSTAINED, SENATE DID NOT DEBATE
 - *House Veto Override: 84-39*
 - *Senate did not take up*
- *87(f): requiring the State Board to use assessment cut scores from 2024, prohibiting them using the ones that were newly adopted in August, 2025.*
VETO SUSTAINED; OVERRIDE FAILED IN SENATE
 - *House Veto Override 84-39*
 - *Senate Veto Override 21-18*
- *87(g): Funding for and requirements of Innovative Assessment Pilot Programs*
VETO SUSTAINED, OVERRIDE FAILED IN SENATE
 - *House Veto Override 84-39*
 - *Senate Veto Override 23-16*
- *88(a) (portions): Re: cut scores; language similar to 87(f)*
VETO SUSTAINED, OVERRIDE FAILED IN SENATE
 - *House Veto Override 84-39*
 - *Senate Veto Override 21-18*
- *88(L): funding for Contract with KU for state assessment program*
VETO SUSTAINED, OVERRIDE FAILED IN SENATE
 - *House Overrides Veto 84-39*
 - *Senate Override Veto 23-16*

Education-related override attempts that WERE SUCCESSFUL (Will be included in Budget):

- *88(k) requirement to fund certain programs from existing funds*
VETO OVERRIDE SUCCESSFUL
 - *House Veto Override 87-36*
 - *Senate Veto Override 28-11*
- *88(m): School Walk out/Free Speech Restrictions**
VETO OVERRIDE SUCCESSFUL
 - *House Veto Override: 87-36*
 - *Senate Veto Override: 27-12*

**This is the most problematic of all the education-related provisos that were approved. It restricts students First Amendment Rights to free speech, is virtually impossible to implement, and most assuredly will result in lawsuits.*

Education Bills Signed into Law

In 2026, there were over 120 education-related bills introduced. As of April 11, eight have been signed into law. These include:

SB 382

- The final bill bundled four education-related issues:
 - Permits nonpublic schools to permit eligible students to participate in KSHAA governed activities
 - Exempts foreign exchange students from public school district open-enrollment lotteries and authorize those students to enroll in the public school district in which their host family resides.
 - Amends the definition of “special teacher,” to include persons employed by a third party that has a contract with a school district to provide special education or related services.
 - Requires any state assessment administered virtually to a virtual school student to be administered by the student’s virtual school.

- It passed the Senate [37-3](#) and the House [83-40](#). The Governor signed it on April 9.

House Sub for SB 366

- This legislation prohibits the use of a mobile telephone in a school zone or road construction zone.
- It passed the House [116-7](#) and the Senate [31-9](#). The Governor approved it on April 3.

Sub for HB 2299: The Cell Phone Restrictions Bill.

- Requires each school district and accredited nonpublic school to adopt policies and procedures regarding the use of personal electronic communication devices (personal devices) and social media platforms.
- Districts must submit their plans to the State Board of Education on or before September 1, 2026.
- It passed the Senate [32-4](#) and the House [84-39](#).
- The Governor signed the bill on March 19.

HB 2618

- Requires the State Board of Education to report to the Legislature on federal moneys received by the state, ends certain educational reporting requirements and expiration dates.
- The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and [102-20](#) in the House. The governor signed it on April 6.

HB 2320

- The bill would allow foster students to either attend any school district within the state or to remain in their school of origin if it is determined to be in the best interests of the child.
- It would also permit foster students whose placement is changed such that they cross a school boundary within the same school district to choose to either remain at their school of origin or attend the school of the school district where they are placed.
- The bill passed both houses unanimously and was signed by the Governor on April 6.

HB 2487

- This legislation adds teacher and paraprofessional for scholarship eligibility under the [Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship program](#).
- The scholarship program is intended to assist first-generation Kansas college students with an undergraduate degree. A student is eligible for a scholarship if they meet certain criteria that now includes having a parent who is employed as a teacher or paraprofessional in preK-12. It passed both chambers unanimously and was signed by the Governor on April 6.

HB 2534

- This bill bundled four pieces of legislation.
 - Requires local school boards, with the guidance of the State School Board, to develop fentanyl abuse education programs.
 - Requires school districts to maintain a stock supply of naloxone, as recommended by a school nurse, at each school operated by the district, and to periodically monitor the inventory and expiration dates of the medicine.

- Establishes the Student Safe at School Act. Requires KSDE to establish and publish best practice guidelines for conducting an active shooter drill in school.
- Modifies requirements for establishing and measuring student cohort groups in School District At-Risk Accountability Plans.
- HB 2534 passed both chambers unanimously and the Governor signed it on April 9.

Education bills vetoed by the Governor, No Override (killed)

- [HB 2468](#): The Tax Credits for Private Schools Bill
 - Increases the aggregate tax credit limit on the tax credit for low-income students' scholarship program.
 - Opts Kansas into the federal tax credit for individual contributions to scholarship granting organizations.
- It passed the Senate [27-12](#) and the House [76-44](#).
- The governor vetoed HB 2468 on April 9.
- Recognizing that they did not have the votes in the House, the legislature did not attempt an override, therefore killing the bill.

Education bills vetoed by the Governor, Override by the legislature (to become law)

- [SB 361](#): Federal Education Tax Credits. Anticipating that the Governor would veto the larger tax credit bill (HB 2468), the Education Conference Committee passed out SB 361, which included only the first section of the original bill allowing for Kansas to opt in to the recently passed federal tax credit for schools act. Both chambers approved it with veto-proof majorities. The governor vetoed the bill, but the legislature overrode her veto by a vote of [29-10](#) in the Senate and [85-38](#) in the House.

Education Bills Debated During Veto Session:

[HB 2412](#): requires the State Board of Education to develop curriculum and school districts to provide instruction on the negative impacts of communist, fascist, and

socialist regimes and ideologies for students in non-elementary grades. The bill also would require students entering grade nine at an accredited public, private, or parochial high school to pass an American civics examination as a condition for graduation.

- It passed the Senate [23-14](#) and the House [80-43](#). Since the legislature has adjourned, if the Governor vetoes the bill, it will not become law.

S Sub for HB 2164

- S Sub for HB 2164 combined two bills: the recess/physical fitness test and the food additives in school lunches ban.
 - Establishes minimum requirements for recess in public schools and includes such time in school term calculations.
 - Directs the State Board of Education to establish a Kansas State Physical Fitness Test.
 - Amends the Kansas Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to ban certain food additives from reimbursable school meals.
- It failed in the House [40-83](#). We assume it was dead. But nothing ever really dies in the legislature until the gavel comes down and Sine Die is declared. Its failure gave birth to....

HB 2763

- Late on Friday, the Education Conference Committee met and approved new language removing the food additives portion of HB 2164. The new Conference Committee Report became HB 2763, only to include the recess and civics test requirements.
- Late Friday evening it passed the Senate [29-10](#) and the House [74-47](#).
- As with the other bills passed during veto session, should the Governor veto this bill, it will not become law.

TAXES

Property Tax

Throughout the regular session and into the wee hours of veto session, the House and Senate worked to find adoption of tax relief plans. On April 8, Governor Kelley vetoed [Senate Sub for HB 2745](#). This bill created a citizen protest petition process for local government budgets (including school districts).

On Friday morning, republican members of the House and Senate Tax Conference Committee were replaced with Senate President Masterson, House Speaker Hawkins, Senate Majority Leader Blaise, and House Majority Leader Croft. The committee updated HB 2745 and it became [HB 2043](#). The most important change for Blue Valley was offered by the House and accepted by the Senate: *school districts removed from the bill*.

HB 2043 passed the Senate [27-13](#) and the House 87-35. It will now go to Governor Kelly for her signature or veto.

Sales Tax

HB 2535

- Authorizes the counties of Butler, Labette, and Leavenworth to submit questions of additional countywide sales taxes to the voters of their respective counties.
- The proceeds of any additional sales tax would be retained by the respective county government and would not be subject to apportionment among the cities within the counties.
- The bill passed Senate [30-8](#). However, it crashed and burned spectacularly in the House. House members voted [107-14](#) NOT to accept the conference committee report from the Senate, essentially voting to refuse to even debate it and therefore killing it.
- If legislators are open to learning lessons, one could be found in this. It is never a good idea to waste almost four months of a session doing virtually nothing to provide tax relief, only to hastily cobble together bills to be voted on after midnight the last night (day) of veto session.

Income Tax Credits

[SB 82](#)

- Creates income tax credits for certain ethanol fuel blends, purchases of lockable gun and ammunition storage, and expands tax credits for employer expenses related to childcare programs for employees.
- It passed the House [76-45](#) and the Senate [36-2](#) and will head to the Governor's desk.