

at



LAKIN GRADE SCHOOL

USD 215

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Dear House K-12 Budget Committee:

While I fully support parent/family involvement and a partnership between parents/families and the school, I am opposed to HB 2662 for the following reasons:

1. An elementary teacher's day is already full with the myriad of responsibilities they carry: teaching state standards, teaching and supporting students' social emotional well being, looking at data to determine next steps for student instruction. In addition to determining what instruction students need, teachers are tasked with designing instruction that is fun, engaging, and impactful. That is no small feat in the age of technology and instant gratification to which many of our young students are accustomed. A teacher may write lesson plans at the beginning of the week, but by Tuesday afternoon those plans have drastically changed because of the multiple learning needs of students. I would much prefer a teacher focus their time and energy on making sure that students are loved, safe, and learning rather than doing bookkeeping duties like updating a website or information portal.
2. We have multiple ways of communicating with parents and keeping them up to date on what is happening in the school. Our school maintains a Facebook and Instagram page. We also utilize SeeSaw, which serves three purposes. The first purpose of SeeSaw is to provide parents with almost real time information of learning activities that are taking place in the classroom. SeeSaw also serves as a communication tool in which parents and teachers can communicate instantly and easily. The third purpose of SeeSaw is it can be utilized as an instruction tool so teachers can record or upload short videos of instruction for students to watch at various times during the day. Parents have access to what is uploaded into SeeSaw.
3. Finally, many administrators, including myself have an open door policy for families. I publish my email and cell phone in multiple places so that parents may reach out to me at any time if they have questions or concerns.

Our teachers are professionals and should be treated as such. We need to trust that they know what instruction to design for students that will enable them to be successful and productive citizens in an ever changing world. The education profession is experiencing burnout at alarming rates. I fear that this bill and similar bills will be the straw that broke the camel's back and drive educators out of the profession at breakneck speed.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Kim Panzer