



Testimony: HB 2330 (Proponent)
House Committee on Education
February 17, 2025
By: Dr. Tonya Merrigan, Superintendent (written only)
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Chairman Estes and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to enter written testimony in support of HB 2330, Designating November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day in the state of Kansas.

Blue Valley Schools has participated for the last two years in the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. Our Parent Teacher Organizations have partnered with schools to provide safe routes for students to participate with trusted supportive adults along the route to ensure safety. This partnership has allowed educational opportunities that involved our entire community and went beyond the classroom. This experience was impactful for students and enhanced the learning happening in our schools. What I love most about this day is that it added to our learning opportunities without disrupting our curriculum that our teachers work so hard to complete every day.

The primary goal of the Blue Valley district is **to ensure every student attending our schools has the educational programming and opportunities, delivered by quality educators, to allow them to thrive long after they leave our doors.** We embrace every student who walks through our doors and always work to provide them with the tools to succeed. Blue Valley has a student population of more than 22,400 and consistently ranks in the top tier of high performing schools, both in the state and in the nation. (See "Quick Facts" at the end of testimony.) Ruby Bridges walk to school day is a positive addition to our school calendars that provides impactful learning that students will remember long after the day is complete.

I strongly support HB 2330, Designating November 14 of each year as Ruby Bridges walk to school day in the state of Kansas.

USD 229 Blue Valley Schools: Quick Facts

K-12 Student Enrollment	21,767	ACT District Composite Average*	22.9
Early Childhood—grade 12 Enrollment	22,450	ACT Statewide Average	19.2
Average Daily Attendance	94.4%	SAT District Average	1357
Graduation Rate	96.7%	SAT Statewide Average	1256
Teacher's with Master's Degree or Higher	76%	*with 91.6 % of graduates taking ACT	