



Report Highlights

Reviewing Certain KSHSAA and School District Policies Related to Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Question

1. Do school district and KSHSAA policies comply with state laws allowing virtual and nonpublic-school students to participate in KSHSAA-regulated activities, and what policies do they have for non-KSHSAA-regulated activities?

Answer

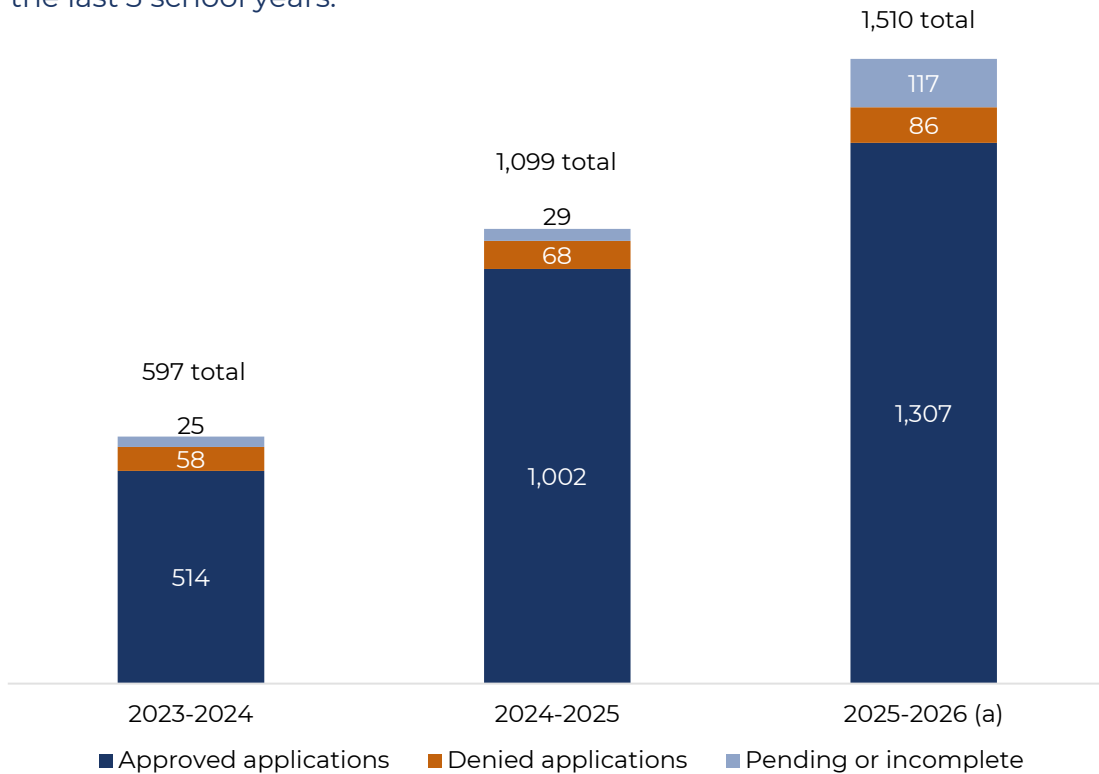
1. KSHSAA and 19 of the 20 school districts we reviewed had written policies that aligned with state law, and 16 of 20 districts said they would also allow participation in non-KSHSAA-regulated activities.

Recommendations: We recommended that USD 282 West Elk adopt a written policy and that USD 260 Derby, USD 340 Jefferson West, and USD 358 Oxford update their handbooks and other documentation to ensure they align with their adopted policies and state law.

KSHSAA and 19 of the 20 school districts we reviewed had written policies that aligned with state law, and 16 of 20 districts said they would also allow participation in non-KSHSAA-regulated activities.

- The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) regulates 21 activities for 7th – 12th grades.
- State law requires school districts to allow eligible virtual and nonpublic-school students to participate in KSHSAA-regulated activities and directly related events.
- To participate in a KSHSAA-regulated activity, virtual and nonpublic-school students apply online to KSHSAA.
- KSHSAA officials decide whether a virtual or nonpublic-school student is eligible to participate in KSHSAA-regulated activities.
- During the last 3 school years, KSHSAA officials approved 88% of the 3,200 applications they received from virtual and nonpublic-school students.
- School districts have discretion over whether virtual and nonpublic-school students can participate in non-KSHSAA-regulated activities.
- We reviewed KSHSAA’s and a selection of 20 school districts’ policies for the 2025-2026 school year to determine whether they align with state law.
- KSHSAA’s 2025-2026 policy for KSHSAA-regulated activities and directly related events aligns with state law.
- 19 of the 20 school districts (95%) we reviewed had adopted written policies that align with state law, although 3 adopted their policies after the 2025-2026 school year started.
- 4 districts hadn’t updated their student handbooks or other guidance documents to align with state law.
- Although not required, 16 of the 20 school districts (80%) we reviewed said they would allow virtual and nonpublic-school student participation in non-KSHSAA-regulated activities.

Figure 2. KSHSAA has received increasing numbers of applications over the last 3 school years.



Source: LPA analysis of KSHSAA data (audited).

Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit

Other Findings: While reviewing KSHSAA's data, we saw 4 instances in which school districts told KSHSAA to deny students' applications for reasons other than residency.

Agency Response: School district officials generally agreed with our findings and conclusions and agreed to implement our recommendations.



Scan for Full Report and Podcast or visit www.kslpa.gov