



Display at Kansas museum was potentially explosive

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Kobach targets school contracts

AG says nondiscrimination language violates federal law

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kansas State Board of Education responded to Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, after he claimed nondiscrimination clauses in school contracts violate federal law.

Kobach sent a letter to the Kansas

State Board of Education on June 25, alleging that contracts for vendors participating in the Child Nutrition and Wellness Programs inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation as grounds for discrimination violate federal law.

Kobach cited an executive order issued by President Donald Trump ordering the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to

strike gender identity from the definition of sex discrimination and a temporary injunction granted in federal court.

The Kansas Department of Education responded to Kobach in a press release on July 9, saying that the anti-discrimination language is standard for all contracts and is dictated by the Kansas

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Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach claims nondiscrimination language for school contractors could risk federal funding. CAPITAL-JOURNAL 2024 FILE PHOTO

Illegal Chinese vapes funneled into country



The supply chain ferrying illegal Chinese-made vapes into the United States mostly operates in plain sight.
PHOTOS BY CBP/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

Analysis finds billions of dollars in imports unaccounted for

Emma Rumney, Kaylee Kang and Tom Polansek
REUTERS

CHICAGO – From an office a 15-minute drive from Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport, one small firm helped import millions of unauthorized Chinese-made vapes last year alone, forming a key link in the supply chain feeding U.S. demand for illegal e-cigarettes.

In a little over four years, the firm, a customs brokerage run by a man named Jay Kim, became a go-to broker for the Chinese vape industry. The firm worked on 60% of all shipments of vapes and vape parts from China to the United States in

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Unauthorized Chinese-made vapes were seized in a raid outside of Chicago by members of the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

KANSAS BOE

What a ‘persistently dangerous’ school means

Jack Harvel
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas could reconsider a long-time, but seldom-used, statute defining persistently dangerous schools that allows students to transfer out of an unsafe environment.

The No Child Left Behind Act allowed students to transfer out of persistently dangerous schools, but allowed states to define what makes a school persistently dangerous. In Kansas, for a school to be considered dangerous, for three years it must:

- Have one student expelled for a federal gun free schools violation.
- Have 2% or five students, whichever is greater, of its student population use the option to transfer.
- Have 2% or five students, whichever is greater, expelled for a violent offense.

The definition has been a high bar, and no school in Kansas has ever been deemed persistently dangerous. The Kansas State Board of Education discussed persistently dangerous schools at its regular meeting, after the U.S. Department of Education sent guidance on defining dangerous schools.

Kansas State Board of Education member Debbie Potter said Kansas’s definition is a higher bar than what the federal government recommends.

“We’re not going to have any persistently dangerous schools in Kansas in that definition,” Potter said during the July 8 board meeting.

The letter says that in the most recent school year, only five states identified persistently dangerous schools. Arkansas accounted for 15 of the 25

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