



KANSAS
SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Testimony before
House Committee on Education
HB 2289
Relating to Curriculum Standards
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House Chair Kelley and members of the House Education Committee; thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to HB 2289 of which my major concern is the complete elimination of the choice to use Common Core State Standards in the development of appropriate curriculum for the K-12 students of Kansas.

As a quick review of the evolution of the work that has transpired to date and subsequent information, the following bullet points are listed:

- The CCSS is a state lead initiative by the Chief Executive State Education Officials and the Governors of 48 states.
- The CCSS is not a national curriculum.
- Standards are not curriculum. Standards provide a focus for curriculum work.
- Kansas needs to update and improve what was being done under NCLB. If we do not use the standards that have been worked on for the last three years, which do we use?
- Starting over leaves Kansas three years behind and wastes countless hours of work and funding. Starting over also demeans the excellent work of educators across the state and is negative motivator for future work.
- Not allowing Kansas Schools to use the CCSS that have been developed will deprive students of the benefits of existing work that centered on the 21st Century Skills and knowledge.
- The standards of CCSS have been fully developed in conjunction and cooperation with the other 47 states in the program.
- No federal funds were used to develop the standards. Race to the Top funds (RTTT) were used to develop two assessments to measure student knowledge that will result from the curriculums using the CCSS.
- While the KSSA does not have an official position on the topic, I have not heard anything in opposition. I have heard that is has been a good amount of excellent work that needed to be done in order to reach the improved levels required for the 21st Century Skills that the students of Kansas will use to their betterment.
- ***The bill does state that 'nothing in this subsection shall be construed in any manner so as to impinge upon any district's authority to determine its own curriculum'.*** It appears that this means do what you want with your own curriculum but do not spend any moneys or use the CCSS to implement your own curriculum (see new Section 1 and Section 2.b(1&2) I find that to be a bit confusing and debilitating.

- The CCSS is already part of the College and Career Ready Program established by KSSA Committee work.
- I also believe that the State Board of Education did establish curricular standards which reflect high academic standards for Kansas Education in the core academic areas of mathematics, science, reading, writing and social studies. (Sec. 2. (b.1)). **The State Board did so without federal mandates or funds.**

As Mischel Miller, Curriculum Director from Hugoton and now an Assistant Superintendent in Dodge City stated, "...both districts made a diligent and educational decision to move to the CCSS. ***It was not from a mandate but rather from the ideal that the content was more relevant, rigorous and provided many more rich literacy and mathematical competencies for our students. It also provided our students with relevant content to prepare them for college and career and the 21st Century learning skills***".

From my perspective of a superintendent of 25 years and was a practicing superintendent during the initial start of the work with the Common Core in 2010, I find that the standards are relevant and needed in order to provide the students of Kansas with a more rigorous curriculum that will be more future ready. I have not heard of any opposition to becoming better and assisting our students 'to be more productive, problem-solving, diligent workers equipped to meet the needs of the 21st Century'. I believe HB 2289 is not a needed legislative initiative and it should not proceed past the committee level.

Thank you and I will stand for questions.