February 17, 2016

The Honorable Ronald Highland, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 561-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Highland:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2676 by Representatives Scapa, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2676 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2676 would create the Local Control of Kansas Education Act. The bill would prohibit any state official from joining any consortium when participation would cede any measure of control over any aspect of Kansas public education to any organization not explicitly allowed authority over education in Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution. In addition, any action taken by any state official to implement programs, assessments, testing, surveys or any educational materials to the Common Core standards, or any other academic standards not in the public domain, would be void beginning on July 1, 2017. No funding could be used for assessments, materials or training that would implement Common Core Standards, as well.

Beginning July 1, 2017, the State Board could not implement any past academic standards or related assessments or any future academic standards or related assessments that are aligned with Common Core Standards or any other standards listed in the bill. The State Board of Education would be required to rescind any requirement, agreement or waiver with the U.S. Department of Education or any other federal agency that conditioned the receipt of federal funding with revising educational curriculum standards to align with the Common Core standards. The State Board would be prohibited from agreeing to future federal educational funding, waivers, agreements or requirements which condition the receipt of federal funding upon academic curriculum being aligned to Common Core standards.

Finally, the bill would prohibit the disclosure of any personally identifiable student data from the statewide longitudinal student data system, unless prior written consent is provided by a student’s parent or legal guardian.
The Department of Education has consulted with the state’s assessment contractor and estimates that it would require approximately two years to develop new standards and state assessments with the enactment of HB 2676. The contractor estimates that it would require two years to develop math standards and assessments at a cost of $4,000,000, or $2,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. In addition, the development of standards and assessments for language arts would cost approximately $2,500,000 per year for two years for a total of $5,000,000. As a result, the Department estimates that new academic standards and assessments would cost approximately $9,000,000, with $4,500,000 required in both FY 2017 and FY 2018, all from the State General Fund.

The Department notes that it would continue to use the current state assessments in FY 2017 and FY 2018 while the new standards and assessments are being developed. Absent this action, the Department indicates it would likely lose federal fund awards associated with state assessments, which total approximately $4.8 million each year, and potential other federal fund awards. The Division of the Budget notes that after new standards and assessments have been developed, the existing $1.0 million in the agency’s base budget from the State General Fund could be used to offset the new expenditures required after FY 2018. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2676 is not reflected in The FY 2017 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education