February 25, 2015

The Honorable Steve Abrams, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 224-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Abrams:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 67 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 67 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 67 would declare that the state would retain sole control over the development, establishment and revision of K-12 curriculum standards. Any education entity or any state official would be prohibited from joining any consortium when the participation in that consortium would cede any measure of control over any aspect of Kansas public education to any entity not explicitly allowed authority over education in Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution.

Any actions taken by any education entity or any state official to adopt, implement or align programs, assessments, testing, surveys or any educational materials or activities to the common core state standards, the social, emotional and character development standards, the national curriculum standards for social studies, the national health education standards, the national sexuality education standards, core content and skills, or any other academic standards not in the public domain, free of any copyright, as of July 1, 2015 would be void. Any education entity or any state official could not accept public or private funds or spend any funds for the purchase of materials or for teacher in-service training that supports, aligns or is used to implement the above listed academic standards. No state law, rule or regulation could condition teacher evaluation or pay on state assessment scores or student participation in state assessments.

The Kansas curriculum standards used to teach K-12 English, language arts, mathematics and science prior to October 12, 2010, would be reinstated for kindergarten through grade 12 beginning July 1, 2015 and remain in effect until July 1, 2017. After July 1, 2017, revised Kansas standards may be developed. The State Board of Education would be required to rescind any requirement, agreement or waiver, including the No Child Left Behind waiver, with the U.S. Department of Education or any other federal agency which conditioned the receipt of federal funding upon the Board revising educational curriculum standards to align with the common core state standards.
The bill would prohibit the State Board of Education from adopting or developing a criterion-reference formative or summative assessment instrument based on or aligned to common core standards.

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According to the Kansas Department of Education, enactment of SB 67 would require additional expenditure of $1,150,000, all from the State General Fund, in both FY 2016 and FY 2017. The Department would contract with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) at the University of Kansas to create new state assessment tests over a two-year period.

The Department notes that any new standards that the state would adopt as a result of SB 67 would be required to pass a review by the U.S. Department of Education. If the state would not pass this review, Kansas could be subject to the previous Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) model of school accountability, which could change how schools would use federal funds from Title I program grants. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 67 is not reflected in The FY 2016 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education