



Testimony to the House Education Committee HB 2292 – Repealing Common Core/Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

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Chairman Highland and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of the provisions of HB 2292 that repeal the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (KCCRS).

Prior to joining KPI last year, I was an elementary public school teacher for 20 years, the last 17 of those in Kansas. I was a classroom teacher in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grades. I was also a math interventionist, and in that capacity I worked with small groups of students who were behind grade level in that subject.

There are many reasons to repeal the KCCRS. My testimony today will focus on two of those reasons from a teacher's perspective.

1. Many of the standards are not age appropriate and will be a factor in the proliferation and expansion of existing achievement gaps. Let me be clear: Standards should be high and the entire education community should be accountable for our students achieving those high standards. However, standards also need to be appropriate to the age and development of students, especially those at the foundational level of elementary school. This is of particular concern when considering our at-risk students. How can those who are already behind academically be expected to bridge the gap given age inappropriate expectations?

Here's an example of what a first grader is responsible for knowing: *Add and subtract within 20, demonstrating fluency for addition and subtraction within 10. Use mental strategies such as counting on; making ten (e.g., $8+6=8+2+4=10+4=14$); decomposing a number leading to a 10 (e.g., $13-4=13-3-1=10-1=9$); using the relationship between addition and subtraction (e.g., knowing that $8+4=12$, one knows $12-8=4$); and creating equivalent but easier or know sums (e.g., adding $6+7$ by creating the known equivalent $6+6+1=12+1=13$).*

2. Now, through the Supreme Court's *Gannon* decision, a different set of standards – Rose Standards – are the law of the land. Some in the education establishment will tell you that this is irrelevant to KCCRS; that those can be a subset of Rose and the two will fit like hand-in-glove. However, Rose Standards are much broader than KCCRS; therefore, there will be an additional set of standards for which teachers will be responsible. There will undoubtedly be more assessments and more record keeping, which will reduce teaching time. Speaking from experience, one thing teachers do not need is more demand on their most coveted commodity – time. Once again, the consequence will be lower student performance.

We should use the Supreme Court decision as an opportunity for the citizens of Kansas to determine – free from federal intrusion – what education standards are important for our children. We need standards that are rigorous, but appropriate and achievable by all. Neither is the case with the current standards. And ultimately, teachers need to be provided with the tools and support necessary to address those standards so students can be successful.

Thank you once again. I will gladly answer any questions.