



Testimony before the  
**House Committee on Education**  
on  
**HB 2292 - Enacting the local control of Kansas education act; relating to the student data privacy act**  
by  
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Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **HB 2292**. KASB appears in opposition for the following reasons:

Section 3 of the bill says the state is to retain control over its curriculum standards. We strongly agree with this position. However, we do NOT agree that the adoption of the Common Core Standards or other standards listed in the bill violate this principle. Our current standards have been adopted by the elected Kansas State Board of Education under its constitutional authority. At any time, the State Board could adopt another set of standards. If you believe this bill can withdraw the state from these standards, then it proves Kansas has not given up control over standards.

Instead, this bill represents one “branch” of the state - the Legislature - seeking to overturn and dictate action by another branch - the State Board. We think that runs counter to what the people of Kansas said in 1966 when they amended article 6 of the state constitution to create a State Board and give it general supervision of K-12 education.

We have had two election cycles since the State Board adopted the Common Core Standards. Every seat on the board has been on the ballot. The people of Kansas have had the opportunity to change the board if they disagreed with its action.

We do not believe that adopting all or part of standards developed by or in conjunction with other states or organizations is any different than the Legislature adopting all or part of “model” laws or policies recommended by organizations.

The bill prohibits local school boards from spending any money to purchase materials, or for teacher in-service training that supports, aligns or is used to implement the academic standards defined in the bill.

In other words, this bill, which is titled “the Local Control of Kansas Education Act,” actually *weakens* local control by dictating what school districts CANNOT do. That sets a precedent which means the state can also dictate what school districts must teach - the opposite of local control. Remember, no district is required to adopt, teach or purchase materials aligned with the common core. Local boards make that decision. This bill takes away choices.

The bill also says “no law or rule or regulation shall condition teacher evaluation or pay on state assessment scores or student participation in state assessments.” This means the state would limit the ability of local districts to use ANY state assessments - which are based on state curriculum standards - in evaluating teachers. KASB does not believe state assessments should be the ONLY measure of teacher performance, but we believe local boards should be able to use performance on state assessments as one possible indicator. This provision further removes local control.

The bill requires the return to the decade-old curriculum standards for English, language arts, mathematics and science beginning July 1, 2015, until July 1, 2017. After that, revised Kansas standards in these subjects may be developed through the process provided for in K.S.A. 72-6439, and amendments. KASB suggests that instead of disrupting current standards for two years - overturning years of teacher training, textbook and material purchases - the state should use that time to develop new, revised standards under current law.

The bill also says that if advanced placement, international baccalaureate, dual credit or other similar courses and tests are administered to public high school students, they shall be aligned with Kansas curricular standards in effect under provision mentioned above. As we understand it, tests under these programs are never aligned with state curriculum standards, but align with postsecondary or other standards. This provision could essentially eliminate these programs and the opportunities they offer students in Kansas.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am going to briefly address the data privacy issues of the bill. We question the workability of the changes being proposed. Specifically, districts’ ability to obtain parental signatures on a written document outlining all the requirements stated. We fear this will be overly burdensome, inefficient and time restrictive, especially for larger districts and those who have gone to online enrollment. We have previously expressed support for certain changes in the state data privacy act, and will address others in a hearing on a future bill. We also suggest data privacy should be handled in legislation separate from curriculum standards.

Finally, we would simply urge the committee to look ahead, rather than backward. The State Board is already beginning the process of developing new standards. We believe concerns about the common core or other standards should be addressed through that process to create improved standards, rather than attempting to return to old standards and outdated assessments.

Thank you for your consideration.