

Regarding the proposed bill:

HB2292

– Affirming local control of Kansas Education including student data privacy.

America's Founders' Vision of Education:

- Have all children taught the *fundamentals* of **reading, writing, ciphering, history, geography** and **Bible study**, with control and oversight directed by local school boards.
- Education enables children to go on to become well-informed citizens through their **own** diligent **self-study**.

"If everyone is thinking alike, then no one is thinking." Benjamin Franklin

We could line up experts in education, and we have some today, that can give you lengthy courses (with documentation) on how the Common Core Standards (or College and Career Ready Standards, or many of its other aliases) were created, and came to be in our nation's schools. Can you say that about any other set of standards? That they are in schools all across the nation?

That question alone lends credence to the fact that, at a minimum, we nearly have national standards. However, the U.S. Constitution does not provide for federal education standards. Education is to be provided for by the individual states. This is established in our own Kansas Constitution.

Many, including you on this very committee who support the Common Core Standards, have been asked the basis of your support. Where are the schools or districts or states where *these* standards have been implemented with the results supporting the academic rigor assertions repeatedly spouted by not only yourselves but also teachers, principals, administrators or school board members tasked with implementing them? Not one of you or any teacher, principal, administrator or school board member can provide them - because they don't exist.

Considering this, I find it interesting that people who fight to keep the standards do so with such great confidence and accept the enormous responsibility for the potentially disastrous outcomes for the children of this state.

And when we extrapolate, consider that these untested and unproven standards are being implemented in nearly every school, in nearly every school district, in nearly every public private or parochial institution, in nearly every state. When the results are in, we stand to lose an entire generation. The beauty of education being individual and unique to each state ensures varying strengths promoted all across our nation. Just as you look at your children and grandchildren and see their individual beautiful strengths and weaknesses that make them uniquely and strongly them, you cannot have "one-size-fits-all" standards that preserve the unique strengths of children or the strength of our nation. One set of standards dooms our nation to failure.

In addition to the fact that the standards have never been proven to produce a quality education, they have been and continue to be highly criticized. This is evidenced by the numerous testimonies presented today and the growing number of teachers speaking out and leaving their teaching positions every day.

So, why all the insistence that they HAVE TO BE kept in the state of Kansas? I've been researching the Common Core standards for several years now and I have noticed that support for the standards comes from entities. These include teacher associations, school board associations, public school associations, and lobbyists for these groups. Teachers testify, but when I've asked them for the basis of their support, they are not able to provide anything substantive. Even the head of curriculum for a large school district in the state of Kansas wasn't able to provide anything other than the "rigor" claimed in Common Core publications. This is akin to Walmart or McDonalds rolling out a new cash register system for their world-wide operations based on it being "highly recommended" without first testing it to ensure it actually worked in stores. There is not one person in this room much less one person outside this room who would think that would be a good thing to do, except perhaps the seller of that cash register system.

In 2009, when Governor Parkinson signed Kansas up for the Common Core Standards (without any approval by the state legislature – tasked with “providing for” education in the state of Kansas – or knowing what he was agreeing to because the standards were not even written) in order for Kansas to receive \$9.1M in state stabilization funds, the state had to commit to the creation of a state longitudinal data system (SLDS). And low and behold, the federal government was also nice enough to supply the specs for the creation of the data system. These specs are consistent across the states so that there’s compatibility between the states. Wasn’t that clever of the federal government, as it doled out the peoples’ cash, to require the states meet certain requirements, and now the states have in essence created a nationwide SLDS?

Consider the gargantuan – actually I can’t think of a large enough word to describe the size – explosion of data collection. Kids used to go to school and when they graduated, the only thing that didn’t go with them and was left behind with the school was a record of their grades and a high school transcript in a file cabinet. Now, from the moment a child steps into a learning situation, beginning as early as a “Moms as Teachers” visit, a breadth of data is collected. All the usual name, address, parents, phone, gender, grades is now dwarfed by race, family demographics, untold amounts of behavioral data, activities, attitudes, learning strengths and weaknesses, teacher opinions, and on and on. And the data is collected by numerous providers and agencies. It is hardly if at all restricted from being widely accessed and disseminated - all without parent knowledge or permission.

Providers, institutions and agencies are presently free to collect, use and disseminate data on children for their own purposes. No one representing the best interests of the child is allowed to have knowledge of the data being collected, much less the opportunity to prevent such collection. As well, the data can very well exist forever. Even juvenile criminal’s records are expunged when they turn 18.

There currently is no privacy or protection of the integrity of a child’s data. Present Kansas law does not ensure the right of the parent to protect against the collection of their child’s data. This is not only an invasion of privacy but a theft of the child’s intellectual property.

By your lack of action to explicitly remove the Common Core College and Career Ready Standards and all alignments to such from the state of Kansas, you are promoting the weakening of our nation through not only unproven standards but also the existence of one set of standards for our nation. You are contributing to an entire generation and more being at risk. The strength of this nation through individual states’ rights is not being protected.

By not ensuring parents’ rights over the interests of the state, of institutions and of providers, you are complicit in the invasion of privacy and theft of a child’s intellectual property.

Your action to protect individual and states’ rights is at stake.

I ask you to strongly and without reservation support HB2292.

Respectfully,

Lisa Huesers