



**Making public schools great for every child**

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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS  
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Mark Desetti, Testimony  
House Education Committee  
February 23, 2015  
House Bill 2292

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on House Bill 2292. Kansas NEA stands in opposition to this bill.

If the intent of this bill is to outlaw use of the common core standards, then we believe this bill goes far beyond that intent. In our estimation, this bill would do significant damage to the educational opportunities children have in Kansas today.

The Kansas constitution gives the responsibility for general supervision of public education to the elected State Board of Education. The development of standards is up to the State Board. While this bill maintains that the State Board has this authority, it so restricts that authority that it is hard to imagine how the State Board could be construed to have such authority. Kansas would have to start the process of standards development from scratch and would be prohibited from participating with others who are involved in the same process. We question the constitutionality of these provisions.

Consortiums of other organizations is such a broad spectrum that it would be hard to imagine what the State Board could consider. We believe that this prohibition would cover the College Board and so make use of the SAT, the PSAT, and the Advanced Placement standards unusable in our public schools. Doing this would end the selection of National Merit Scholars for Kansas and seriously undermine student opportunities to earn college credit through the AP program. This would also likely impact participation in the ACT testing program.

The bill specifically references the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs directing that they be aligned with the Kansas standards. These are national programs controlled for rigor, based on standards developed nationally. If these programs in Kansas were not aligned with the actual program standards, then they would not be used by universities for their intended purpose. This bill would end the ability of Kansas students to reap the academic benefits of these programs.

The standards adopted by the State Board of Education that this bill would repeal have been part of the state educational program since 2010. For five years, districts have adapted curriculum, trained teachers, and purchased instructional materials aligned with these adopted standards. Adoption of this bill would require a complete retooling of curriculum in every school district, require that teacher in-service training be reversed, and could result in the need to replace expensive instruction materials including textbooks. The cost to local school districts of meeting this bill would be tremendous.

School districts participating in the Lexia reading program – a program adopted by the legislature which is aligned with the common core standards – would no longer be permitted to use the program unless it were to be completely redesigned to meet the Kansas specific standards.

Finally, we would point out that the United States Military supports adoption of the common core standards with their various state adaptations. Because military families move frequently between states, it is important that the children of military personnel can count on consistency from state to state. While every state that participates in the common core uses those standards as a starting point, each state expands upon them to meet the specific needs of that state. Kansas is an important state for the United States Military. It is imperative that we support the children of military personnel who spend a portion of the service years here in Kansas.