

Approved February 1, 1988  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Senator Joseph C. Harder at  
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xx~~ a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1988 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office  
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 459 - Minimum competency assessment program, affect intention of act providing for, requiring legislative study, review and evaluation; Re Proposal No. 21. (Legislative Educational Planning Committee)

Proponents:

Dr. Paul D. Adams, District 3, Osage City, State Board of Education  
Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, Kansas-National Education Association  
Dr. Richard Funk, Assistant Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards

Opponents:

Ms. Carolyn Kehr, Director of Curriculum and Special Projects, Kansas Federation of Teachers

Following a call to order by Chairman Joseph C. Harder, Senator Arasmith made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of January 26. Senator Allen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Chairman then referred the Committee's attention to SB 91. He explained that out of deference to Senator Richard Bond, sponsor of the bill, he is asking the Committee if it might wish to reconsider its previous action on SB 91. The Chairman further explained that Senator Bond had requested that SB 91 remain in Committee rather than be reported adversely and that he had not yet reported the Committee action on the bill. Senator Kerr moved, and Senator Warren seconded a motion that the Committee reconsider the action it had taken on SB 91 at its meeting on January 26, and the motion carried. The Chairman announced that SB 91 would remain in Committee.

The Chairman then requested Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department, to briefly review SB 459 which, he continued, had been recommended for introduction by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) during the 1987-88 interim.

Mr. Barrett summarized the bill by saying that it:

1. Clarifies legislative intent - to help children, and
2. Calls for a study of the program during the 1988-89 interim before the statute mandating minimum competency assessment testing should expire.

The Chairman then recognized Dr. Paul Adams, a member of the State Board of Education. Dr. Adams stated that the State Board advocates a review of the assessment program during the 1988-89 legislative sessions and that the Board is endorsing use of the minimum competency assessment testing for identifying students needing remedial attention. (Attachment 1) In responding to questions, Dr. Adams replied that the assessment tests are normally given the last two weeks in March, and the results are received by the schools around May 1. He said he felt the tests should be given earlier in the year in order to better utilize the results for remedial purposes.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

room 123-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 1988

Mr. Craig Grant, Kansas-National Education Association, testified that he supports the concept of SB 459 and specifically lines 41 through 48. He said he, too, supports a study of the program during the 1988-89 interim but that he feels it is important to complete the current five-year cycle of the program before any changes should occur. Mr. Grant also felt that it is difficult to use the assessment testing as a remedial tool if the results are not available until late in the school year.

Dr. Richard Funk, Kansas Association of School Boards, informed the Committee that the Delegate Assembly of the KASB had approved a legislative policy at its December, 1987 meeting to continue the minimum competency assessment program and that the test's purpose should be for referral of those students who may need remedial assistance. (Attachment 2). Dr. Funk pointed out to the Committee that changing the fundamental purpose for which the assessment testing was initiated could cause additional fiscal notes to be generated in some school districts.

The representative of the Kansas Federation Teachers, Ms. Carolyn Kehr, stated the reasons why her organization feels the present dollars spent on minimum competency assessment programs could be used more wisely in other areas. She urged that the minimum competency testing be done on a voluntary basis. (Attachment 3)

The Chair then introduced Dr. John Poggio, School of Education, University of Kansas, and told the Committee that Dr. Poggio had been instrumental in helping to develop the minimum competency assessment test program. Dr. Poggio responded to Committee questions. He said that he did not consider the present minimum competency assessment tests to be used as a standard for promotion purposes. In response to another question, Dr. Poggio answered that the methods used for notifying parents of the test results were up to each individual district. Dr. Poggio also replied that remediation materials are readily available for use by the teachers and said that 50 to 75% of the assessment test questions are new each time.

When the Chair asked the Committee if it wished to take any action on SB 459, Senator Arasmith moved that SB 459 be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Langworthy seconded the motion. Senator Kerr offered a substitute conceptual motion to amend SB 459 beginning on line 63 so that a study of the minimum competency assessment program might be made during the 1988-89 interim to determine what its effectiveness might be if used in the evaluation process in the promotion of students. Senator Montgomery seconded the substitute motion, and the motion carried. When the Chair called for a vote on the original motion, the motion carried. The Chair announced that SB 459, as amended, had passed, and he then adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 1988

GUEST LIST

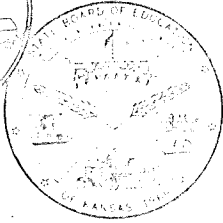
NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
Tam Johnson	406 S. 15th Marysville, KS 66508	- Page
Carolyn Kehr	Topeka	KFT
Chris Graves	Topeka	ASK
Betsy Friedrichs	Bremen, Ks.	-
Richard Funk	Topeka	KASB
Paul Adams	Ozage City, Ks.	\$BE
David McDonald	128 E 10th Topeka	KSD E
Kathryn Beyer	Wichita	USD 259
Steve Henry	Topeka	USD 501
David LaPue	Topeka	KCOVE
Joi Denny	Warrens	BPW
Elsie Stewart	Warrens	BPW
Wivian Safford	Warrens	BPW
Patricia Good	Warrens	BPW
Mildred Reednick		
Jo Dewney	"	BPW
Eulajian M. Hlikes	"	BPW
Bessie Forrester	"	B.P.W.
Mary Frauden	"	BPW

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 123-S DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 1988

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Brian Carroll	1302 Debbie Lane, Marysville, Ks. 66508 - Page	
Matthew Friedrichs	Box 40-A Bremen Ks 66412 - Page	
Jay Coon	Topoka	K-NEA
Craig Grant	Topoka	H-NEA
Ken Rogg	Paola	SDE
Bert Jackson	120 E. 10th Topoka	KSDE
John Pears	Sch. of Ed. University of Kansas	
Sally Struff	Topoka	AP
Peg Dunlap	Topoka	K-NEA
Sybil Hayes	Hameg	B.P.U.
Jacqueline Orkin	Topoka	K-K Schools



# Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103

Mildred McMillon  
District 1

Connie Huobell  
District 4

Bill Musick  
District 6

Evelyn Whitcomb  
District 8

Kathleen White  
District 2

Sheila Frahm  
District 5

Richard M. Robl  
District 7

Robert J. Clemons  
District 9

Paul D. Adams  
District 3

Marion (Mick) Stevens  
District 10

January 27, 1988

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1988 Senate Bill 459

My name is Paul Adams, State Board of Education Member from District 3, Osage City. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

The State Board of Education supports the concept in Senate Bill 459 which specifies that the Kansas minimum competency tests should be used to identify students who have failed the test so that appropriate remediation may be provided. In addition, the State Board is supportive of school district use of the test in evaluation of curriculum and in the development of instructional materials, strategies, techniques, and action plans for improving pupil achievement.

Despite the fact that existing legislation does not specify the identification of students needing remediation as one of the purposes of the tests, the State Board is on record as endorsing this use. By providing enhanced analysis of results to school districts and an optional pre-testing program in which districts may participate, the State Board has encouraged the use of the test as a formative evaluation tool. In addition, the State Board has directed department staff to undertake activities which will encourage such use. Workshops in test interpretation emphasizing this use were conducted in the fall of 1987 and a videotape presentation on interpretation of results is currently being developed. Curriculum guides which incorporate test objectives have been developed and distributed to the LEA's. The State Board has also directed that district test results be forwarded to districts as they are completed rather than waiting until all districts' results have been prepared. This action will allow districts to receive their results in the most timely manner possible.

The State Board advocates a review of the assessment program during the 1988 and 1989 legislative sessions. The Board is in the process of considering options and alternatives related to the future of statewide competency assessment. We anticipate that our recommendations will be available during the 1988 interim.

Attachment 1, 1/27/88

KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS



5401 S. W. 7th Avenue Topeka, Kansas 66606  
913-273-3600

TESTIMONY ON S.B. 459

by

Richard S. Funk, Assistant Executive Director  
Kansas Association of School Boards

January 27, 1988

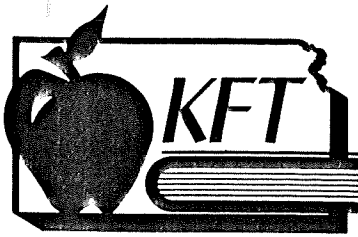
Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear today on behalf of the 302 members of the Kansas Association of School Boards. KASB supports the provisions found in S.B. 459.

The Delegate Assembly of the Kansas Association of School Boards approved a legislative policy at the December 1987 meeting to continue the Minimum Competency Assessment Program and that the test's purpose should be for the referral of those students who may need remedial assistance.

We believe that the Kansas minimum competency assessment programs should a) continue; b) be used to help identify students in need of remedial assistance; c) be used to help identify "at-risk" students; d) cause local boards of education to continue remedial assistance to students or cause them to do so; and e) cause local boards of education to continue to evaluate and upgrade their curricula.

We urge your support and passage of S.B. 459 and ask your continued fiscal support of the "Kansas Competency Assessment Program" and for programs to address the "at-risk" student.

Attachment 2, 1/27/88



# KANSAS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

310 West Central/Suite 110 • Wichita, KS 67202 • (316) 262-5171

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 459

Carolyn Kehr

Director of Curriculum and Special Projects

Kansas Federation of Teachers

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Education Committee, we understand the Legislative Educational Planning Committee has spent considerable time and effort in determining the purpose and future of the minimum competency assessment program. This legislation seeks to address some of the problems of definition and purpose. We applaud the efforts of the LEPC in their attempt to give the minimum competency better direction. The Kansas Federation of Teachers feels there are indeed problems with the scope and direction of this test which I would like to share with you at this time.

KFT would like to see the minimum competency testing take place on a voluntary basis. Districts desiring to participate would be able to do so by request. For the purpose of determining how we are doing state-wide, a stratified random sample could then be employed for assessment. Through this method of breaking down the groups, a more accurate consensus could be obtained. This might take place every three years or so.

Another problem with the current testing situation involves the way in which the data is used in some of the districts. If it is used as part of the criteria to help

in the remediation of a student, that is admirable. However, there is evidence that it has been used in districts by administrators for evaluation purposes. There is nothing in this test which would lend itself to that end, yet it is a reality.

One aspect of the validity of a study is determined by its replication. Based on a detailed analysis of the minimum competency report, it is found to be lacking in enough information so that it could be replicated by another group. This in itself calls for an outside audit to be conducted. At this time, The Center for Educational Testing develops, analyzes, and assesses the entire program. This could lead to a conflict of interest. We are not impugning the motives of the testing center at all, just suggesting a preventative measure be taken. It would appear to be a much healthier situation to have another university audit the assessment program.

For these reasons, we feel the present dollars spent on the minimum competency assessment program could be used more wisely in other areas. Again, this leaves open the opportunity for those districts wanting to participate in the project to do so, but does not obligate all districts.

With that in mind, we ask the Senate to consider these concerns as they weigh the future of the minimum competency assessment program in Kansas.