

Comments on HB 2245 - Third Grade Retention.

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Background:

A major reason cited by advocates for this bill was the experience in Florida. Please consider the following factors:

- Florida, like Kansas, has five "achievement levels" on its state assessments. In both states, the third level is considered "proficient" or "at grade level."
- In Florida, only third-graders scoring at the *lowest* level are subject to retention. The percent of Florida third-graders at the lowest level dropped from 23% in 2003 to 16% in 2010, a 7 percentage point reduction.
- **HB 2245** would require Kansas third-graders scoring in the bottom *two* levels to be retained. Kansas did not test at third-grade in 2003, but at the fifth-grade level, the percent of Kansas students scoring "below proficient" dropped from 31% in 2003 to 15% in 2010 - more than twice the percentage reduction as in Florida. (Only 5% of Kansas third-graders are in the bottom level, compared to 16% in Florida.)
- From 2009 to 2011, Florida's National Assessment of Education Progress scores declined, while Kansas scores increased, widening the lead over Florida for all students and for low income students.
- The next test will come next year, when Florida third-graders in 2003 begin taking the ACT test as seniors. Florida's ACT scores are among the lowest in the nation. This will help measure the long-term impact of Florida's policies. (Only 44% of Floridians met the ACT college readiness benchmark for reading, compared to 60% in Kansas. Florida tested just 66% of graduates; Kansas tested 79%.)

Current Kansas Law

HB 2245 amends a current requirement, adopted in 2005, that school districts assess students at least annually in grades kindergarten through three in reading and math, using state assessments or other diagnostic assessments approved by the State Board of Education. Districts must create a program of research-based interventions or strategies, and have a mechanism to track the interventions for and progress of children identified as needing assistance. It seems clear that this system is working at least as well as Florida's interventions; however, several amendments could be considered.

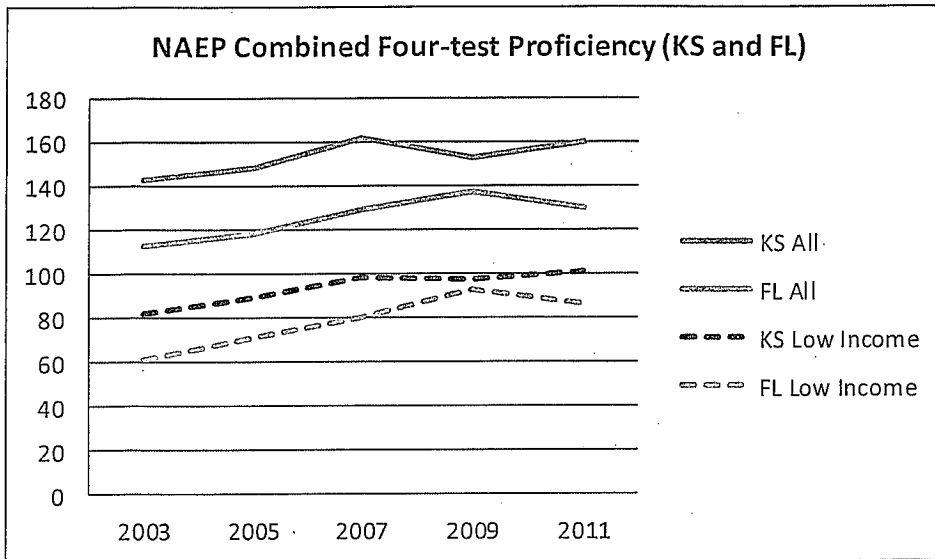
- In lines 22-24, add "retention at grade level" as a possible intervention if the district deems it necessary.
- In section (c), add that if a child is determined to be below grade level in reading or math, or otherwise in need of intervention, the parents should be notified in writing and invited to attend a conference to develop the child's plan of intervention.

House Education Committee

Date 2/7/12

Attachment# 6

Att 6



Preparation for College (2010)									
Combined U.S. Rank	State	ACT/SAT Score (Test Taken by Most Graduates)			Percent Graduates Taking Majority Test			High ACT/SAT Scores per 1,000 Graduates	
		Rank	ACT	SAT	Rank	ACT	SAT	Rank	Number
4	Colorado	16	20.6		1	100		1	304.6
5	Minnesota	1	22.9		17	70		3	264.9
7	Kansas	5	22.0		13	75		6	244.0
8	Nebraska	3	22.1		14	73		8	242.2
9	South Dakota	9	21.8		11	79		9	240.2
16	North Dakota	12	21.5		10	81		17	216.4
23	Iowa	2	22.2		24	60		21	197
24	Missouri	11	21.6		18	69		19	212.2
33	Oklahoma	14	20.7		15	73		34	166
46	Florida	25	19.5		22	65		32	170.4
47	Texas	18		1462	20		53	45	143.3