

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have handed out some documents for your perusal.

I would also like to utilize some of the information that was previously presented.

1. The Performance Audit Report
2. Ks. College and Career Ready
3. Common Core Standards Fact Sheet

The opponents of the Common Core Standards have become quite vocal.

Their opposition centers around the following points:

1. Increased federal government control
2. Increased cost to school districts
  - a. Professional Development
  - b. Text Books and Resources
  - c. On-line testing and the Technology necessary
3. No discernible increase in education standards or performance

### **Federal control**

Kansas was already scheduled to review its standards for math and English (originally instituted in 2003) around 2010. All academic standards are reviewed on a cyclical basis. Social Studies and Science are currently up for review. (Originally written in 2005)

As part of the review process, KSDE officials identified the Common Core Standards as a set of college and career-ready standards that they thought would provide clear expectation for Kansas students.

The National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers coordinated the development of the Common Core Standards. Teachers, school administrators, and education experts collaborated to develop the standards which were finalized for Eng. and Math in 2010. The standards are internationally benchmarked and, according to KSDE officials, are more rigorous than the previous standards.

The federal government did not get involved until many states were upset with NCLB, due to the ridiculous mandate that all children would meet the standards by 2014, with no exceptions for special needs students, English language learners, etc. Many schools with quality education programs would have “failed” with those benchmarks.

This was state led and it allowed for each state to control the curriculum, and the assessment.

### **Increased Cost**

The Performance Audit Report maintains that there would not be significant costs to implement Common Core in Kansas. In fact, 3 of the 4 disciplines have been completed. English and Math Common Core have been in effect in the schools since 2010, even though we did not submit the application, nor receive the waiver, until 2012. And science (continually controversial) is currently being reviewed.

This same audit also identifies that our estimate of the total cost of implementing the Common Core Standards in KS is significantly lower than other studies’ estimates. Our state assessment tests are currently performed through the Internet. Even the Pioneer Institute’s review maintained that “a ‘typical’ per student state testing cost of \$19.93” is quite reasonable. (p.10.)

Professional development is currently budgeted; there should be no additional costs. Again, the math and English curricula are, at this time, used in the classrooms across Kansas. That professional development, albeit continuing, has been introduced.

As far as textbooks and resources are concerned, again, many of the resources needed can be accessed free of charge through the Internet. Kansas, unlike Texas and California, does not adopt text books for the entire state. Each school district in Kansas adopts a cycle of textbook adoption. Many schools no longer use textbooks, but accumulate and/or produce their own materials. This should not involve additional funding.

The assessments, except for science, have been constructed. The Performance Audit Report states “KSDE could save as much as \$3 million per year by not having to develop (additional) student assessment tests.”

### **Increased Learning**

The Common Core curriculum is believed to create more innovation in the classroom, more freedom for educators to teach and students to learn. It is time to make learning fun again – it is fun, it should be fun for every child in every classroom. Our current standards have forced teacher to “teach to the test.” This new curriculum helps students understand topics more deeply, rather than broadly. A deeper understanding will enable our students to be college and career ready.

Documents in folder.

McPherson public schools are very involved in the use of Common Core in their classrooms.