



Testimony to House Education Committee

Student Achievement Overview

March 14, 2013

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Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate this opportunity to provide the Committee with facts about student achievement in Kansas. Every single fact on student achievement comes from the Kansas Department of Education (KSDE), the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and ACT. Local schools districts, KSDE and other groups may have different interpretations of the facts we're about to show you, but that's a matter of interpretation...not a question of fact.

State and national test results show that student achievement in Kansas is actually lower than many people understand. We know that that's not what people want to hear but it is not intended as criticism of teachers, students, school districts or anyone else.

It's like taking your children to the doctor. Everyone wants only to hear good news, but if there's a problem and you're not made aware of it, you can't help your child get better. Having all of the fact is a prerequisite for making fully-informed decisions.

There are many ways to interpret these facts, and different interpretations are not matters of 'right' or 'wrong.' We believe that the only opinion or interpretation that really matters is that of each individual...not any group or organization. We encourage every Kansan to take in all the information on student achievement and ask very tough questions of everyone with different interpretations before deciding what, if anything, should be done differently going forward.

I'll be happy to stand for questions upon conclusion of the following presentation.

Rank vs. Achievement

- Which grade would you want for your child?
 - B+ and be ranked #20 in the class.
 - C- and be ranked #10 in the class.

- Naturally want the higher grade because actual achievement is more important than rank.

- Focusing only on national rank obscures actual achievement levels.



Achievement Matters, Not Rank

Kansas Performance on 2011 NAEP (all students)

	KS National Rank (score)	% Proficient (Kansas)	% Proficient (U.S. average)
4 th grade Reading	T – 14th	36%	32%
8 th grade Reading	#20	35%	32%
4 th grade Math	T – 7th	48%	40%
8 th grade Math	T – 10th	41%	34%

Source: Nation's Report Card, U.S. Dept. of Education



Achievement Matters, Not Rank

Kansas Performance on 2011 NAEP (Low Income students)

	KS National Rank (score)	% Proficient (Kansas)	% Proficient (U.S. average)
4 th grade Reading	T – 22nd	23%	18%
8 th grade Reading	T – 12th	22%	18%
4 th grade Math	T – 3rd	35%	24%
8 th grade Math	T – 8th	24%	19%

Source: Nation's Report Card, U.S. Dept. of Education



Achievement Matters, Not Rank

- Celebrating national rankings based on low achievement levels is detrimental to students and parents; it fosters a false sense of security.
- Actual learning is needed to be ready for college and career.
- Reducing the goal from Proficient to Basic+ (a new trend from KASB and others) only produces better-sounding numbers...not better educated students.



Demographic Weightings Skew State and District Averages

State #1 appears to perform better even though each student cohort has identical scores.

Student Cohort	State #1			State #2		
	Score	Student Mix	Composite	Score	Student Mix	Composite
White	249	69%	172	249	33%	82
Hispanic	229	18%	41	229	48%	110
Black	224	<u>13%</u>	<u>29</u>	224	<u>19%</u>	<u>43</u>
		100%	242		100%	235

Note: Scores are actual scale scores for the national average in 4th Grade Math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Only three cohorts are used for purposes of demonstration.



Student Demographics Vary Widely

	White	Hispanic	Black	Other
United States	53%	22%	17%	8%
Kansas	69%	16%	8%	8%
Missouri	76%	4%	18%	2%
Oklahoma	56%	11%	11%	21%
Colorado	61%	29%	6%	5%
Nebraska	74%	14%	8%	4%
Texas	33%	49%	14%	4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics 2010



KS Slightly Above Average (NAEP)

	White Score		Hispanic Score		Black Score	
	U.S. Avg.	KS	U.S. Avg.	KS	U.S. Avg.	KS
4 th Grade Reading	230	229	205	209	205	204
8 th Grade Reading	272	272	251	254	248	248
4 th Grade Math	249	251	229	235	224	227
8 th Grade Math	293	295	269	274	262	269

Kansas' total scores on these twelve measures are 1.02% above the total U.S. average scores; the scale on each measurement is 0 to 500. Whites alone are 0.3% above average, Hispanics 1.9% above average and Blacks 1.0% above average.



Texas Generally Performs Better

	White Score		Hispanic Score		Black Score	
	KS	Texas	KS	Texas	KS	Texas
4 th Grade Reading	229	233	209	210	204	210
8 th Grade Reading	272	274	254	254	248	252
4 th Grade Math	251	253	235	235	227	232
8 th Grade Math	295	304	274	283	269	277

Even though Texas either performs better or the same with most student cohorts, their composite score is lower because they have much higher proportions of students of color than Kansas.



Demographics Mostly Drive Kansas' ACT Composite Difference

Kansas cohort scores at US demo weighting yields a 21.4 composite score.

	KS Score	KS Demo Weighting		US Score	US Demo Weighting
White	22.6	73.8%		22.4	59.0%
Hispanic	19.5	9.9%		18.9	14.1%
Black	17.6	5.3%		17.0	13.3%
Asian	22.0	2.8%		23.6	4.1%
Am. Indian	20.3	0.7%		18.4	0.8%
Hawaiian	20.5	0.1%		19.8	0.3%
2 or more	21.0	4.6%		21.4	3.3%
Not disclosed	<u>22.7</u>	2.8%		<u>21.7</u>	5.1%
Composite	21.9			21.1	

Source: ACT.org; 2012 results



ACT Score Only Appeared to Decline Because the Demographics Shifted

	2011 Demo Mix	2011 Score	2012 Demo Mix	2012 Score
White	75.8%	22.6	73.8%	22.6
Hispanic	8.8%	19.4	9.9%	19.5
African Amer.	5.6%	17.7	5.3%	17.6
Asian	2.8%	22.5	2.8%	22.0
Amer. Indian	0.9%	20.2	0.7%	20.3
Hawaiian	0.1%	18.7	0.1%	20.5
Multi-Racial	3.3%	21.2	4.6%	21.0
Other / No Resp.	<u>2.8%</u>	<u>22.0</u>	<u>2.8%</u>	<u>22.7</u>
Composite	100%	22.0	100%	21.9

Source: ACT.org



ACT Score Only Appeared to Decline Because the Demographics Shifted

Actual Demo Scores Weighted the Same as 2012 Shows No Change

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	21.9	21.8	21.9	21.9	21.9



Measuring Progress on NAEP

- “Measurement from 2003 is significant because it’s the year the state adopted new curricular standards and the first year the state achieved 100 percent participation from schools identified to participate in NAEP, ensuring the validity and reliability of the results.”

Excerpt from November 1, 2011 press release issued by the Kansas Department of Education



4th Grade Reading (NAEP)

	2003	2011	Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at the Current Pace
All Students – Scale Score	220	224	
All Students – % Below Basic	34%	29%	
All Students – % Proficient	33%	36%	130.7 years
Low Income – Scale Score	206	212	
Low Income – % Below Basic	49%	42%	
Low Income – % Proficient	18%	23%	99.2 years

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress; scale score range is 0 to 500.



8th Grade Reading (NAEP)

	2003	2011	Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at the Current Pace
All Students – Scale Score	266	267	
All Students – % Below Basic	23%	21%	
All Students – % Proficient	35%	35%	Never
Low Income – Scale Score	253	256	
Low Income – % Below Basic	36%	32%	
Low Income – % Proficient	22%	22%	Never

Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress; scale score range is 0 to 500.



USDE: Kansas has Low Standards

- Education Secretary Arne Duncan on NCLB: *"The current law, No Child Left Behind, is far too punitive, it's far too prescriptive, it led to a dumbing down of standards, and it led to a narrowing of the curriculum."*
- NCLB gave states impossible task of hitting 100% proficiency but let each state set their own definition of Proficient. Most, including Kansas, reduced performance standards to avoid financial penalties.



USDE: Kansas has Low Standards

Kansas NAEP-equivalent score for Proficient in Reading is considered Below Basic by USDE; Math score is above Basic but well below Proficient

		Grade 4	Grade 8
NAEP cut scores (lower end)	Basic	208	243
	Proficient	238	281
	Advanced	268	323
Kansas equivalent scale scores for State Proficiency	Reading	186	236
	Math	217	265

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2009 state analysis



State & NAEP Were Close...

...Until Kansas Lowered Standards in 2002

Percent of Kansas 8 th Grade Students Proficient in Reading				
	1998	2000	2001	2002
State Assessment	N/A	38%	34%	65%
NAEP	36%	Reading test not given		38%

A complete explanation of how and when Kansas performance standards were reduced is in "Removing Barriers to Better Public Education" on the KPI web site.

Source: Kansas Dept. of Education; all students; NAEP



What is Proficient in Kansas?

- Merriam-Webster – “well advanced in an art, occupation, or branch of knowledge.”
- “Proficiency with difficult, rigorous and formidable material is observed.” pre-2002
- “Students who perform at the proficient level ... demonstrate a mastery of core skills.” 2002-2005
- “The proficient student has satisfactory comprehension.” 2006 to present



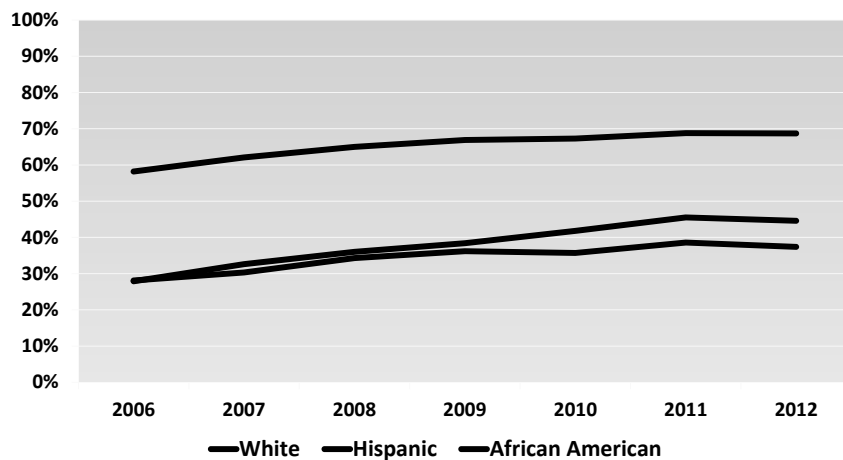
Reading Performance Descriptors

“When independently reading grade-appropriate narrative, expository, technical and persuasive text,…”

- Meets Standard – the *proficient* student has satisfactory comprehension.
- Exceeds Standard – the *advanced* student has full comprehension.

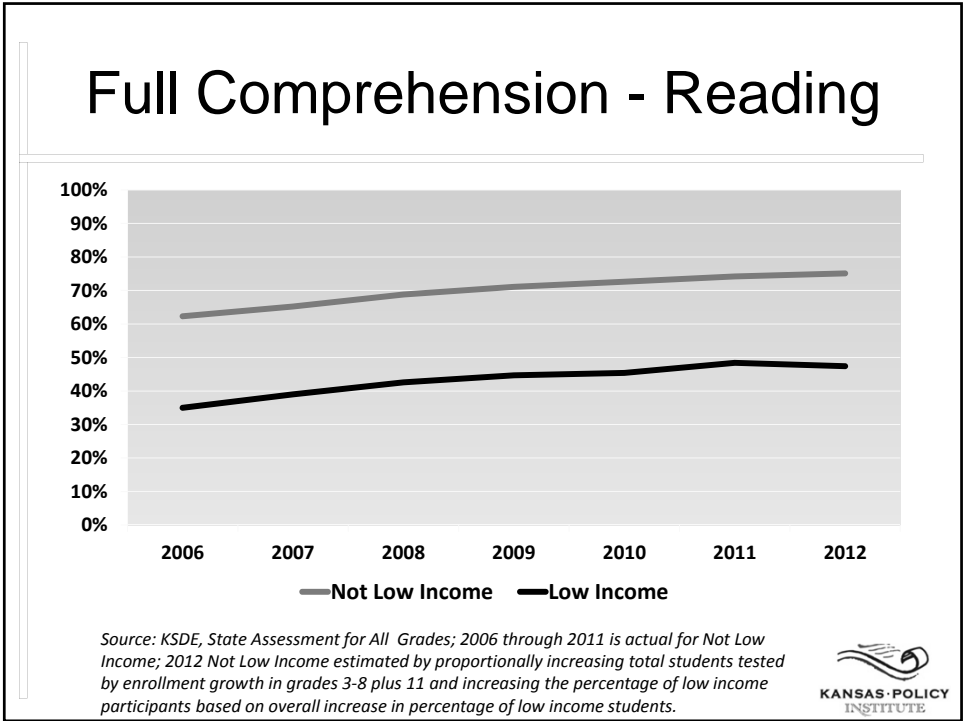


Full Comprehension - Reading



Source: Kansas Dept. of Education, State Assessment for All Grades






Reading – Full Comprehension of Grade-Appropriate Material

2012 State Assessment Results

	4 th Grade	8 th Grade	11 th Grade
All Students	62%	64%	56%
Low Income	49%	49%	39%
White	68%	70%	62%
Hispanic	47%	46%	38%
African American	39%	41%	32%

Source: Kansas Dept. of Education



Math – Usually Accurate on All Grade-Level Tasks

2012 State Assessment Results

	4 th Grade	8 th Grade	11 th Grade
All Students	62%	60%	49%
Low Income	49%	45%	33%
White	67%	66%	55%
Hispanic	49%	44%	32%
African American	39%	35%	24%

Source: Kansas Dept. of Education



Post Secondary Results

- Knowing that only 56% of Kansas 11th grade students can read with full comprehension and only 49% are usually accurate on grade-level tasks in Math, it's not surprising that...
- Only 29% of the 2012 Kansas graduating class who took the ACT were considered college-ready in English, Reading, Math and Science..
- Regents data shows 21% of the 2009-10 high school class who attended public university in Kansas signed up for remedial training.



KPI Interpretation of the Facts

- False impression of high achievement is a major barrier to improvement.
- Many kids get a good public education in Kansas and have solid achievement, but that's generally not true for low income students, who comprise nearly 50% of all students.
- Low income / students of color are absolutely capable of learning...they just haven't had the same access to educational opportunities.
- Progress is very slow under current system.





KANSAS POLICY INSTITUTE

ADVOCATING FOR FREE MARKETS AND THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL LIBERTY

Kansas' NAEP-Equivalent Cut Score for Proficient is Actually Less Than Basic

Grade 4			Grade 8		
State	State Equivalent for Proficient	Rank	State	State Equivalent for Proficient	Rank
NAEP Minimum Score for Proficient is 238			NAEP Minimum Score for Proficient is 281		
Massachusetts	234	1	Missouri	267	1
Missouri	229	2	Florida	262	2
New Jersey	221	3	Vermont	259	3
Vermont	214	4	Wyoming	259	3
New Hampshire	211	5	Minnesota	259	3
Oklahoma	211	5	California	259	3
Mississippi	210	7	New Hampshire	256	7
Rhode Island	209	8	Indiana	255	8
Connecticut	208	9	Mississippi	254	9
Wyoming	208	9	South Dakota	254	9
NAEP Minimum Score for Basic is 208			NAEP Minimum Score for Basic is 243		
Maine	207	11	Maine	253	11
New Mexico	207	11	Kentucky	253	11
Florida	206	13	Washington	253	11
Pennsylvania	206	13	North Dakota	253	11
West Virginia	206	13	Rhode Island	252	15
District of Columbia	205	16	Ohio	251	16
Kentucky	205	16	Oregon	250	17
Washington	205	18	Massachusetts	249	18
Minnesota	204	19	Oklahoma	249	18
North Carolina	204	19	West Virginia	249	18
Hawaii	203	21	Iowa	248	21
Indiana	203	21	New York	247	22
North Dakota	203	21	New Mexico	246	23
California	202	24	North Carolina	246	23
Nevada	202	24	Nevada	246	23
Arkansas	200	26	Montana	246	23
New York	200	26	Pennsylvania	245	27
Delaware	199	28	South Carolina	245	27
South Dakota	199	28	New Jersey	244	29
Illinois	198	30	District of Columbia	244	29
Montana	198	30	Connecticut	243	31
Utah	196	32	Louisiana	243	31
Iowa	194	33	NAEP Minimum Score for Basic is 243		
Michigan	194	33	Hawaii	241	33
South Carolina	194	33	Arkansas	241	33
Arizona	193	36	Arizona	241	33
Louisiana	192	37	Maryland	237	36
Ohio	192	37	Delaware	236	37
Wisconsin	189	39	Michigan	236	37
Texas	188	40	Kansas	236	37
Maryland	187	41	Utah	235	40
Idaho	186	42	Illinois	234	41
Kansas	186	42	Alabama	234	41
Virginia	186	42	Wisconsin	232	43
Alaska	183	45	Alaska	231	44
Colorado	183	45	Virginia	229	45
Alabama	179	47	Colorado	228	46
Georgia	178	48	Idaho	218	47
Oregon	177	49	Tennessee	211	48
Tennessee	170	50	Georgia	209	49
Nebraska	Data not available		Texas	201	50
			Nebraska	Data not available	

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

WWW.KANSASPOLICY.ORG | WWW.KANSASOPENGOV.ORG



Comparative Data from “Removing Barriers to Better Public Education”

Appendix "D": Proficiency Level and Scale Score by State (4th Reading)										
	White		Hispanic		Black		Low Income		Students w/ Disabilities	
	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale
	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score
U.S. Average	42%	230	17%	205	16%	205	18%	186	11%	207
Florida	48%	235	30%	220	17%	209	24%	201	15%	216
Texas	45%	233	19%	210	18%	210	17%	188	10%	209
Kansas	42%	229	20%	209	18%	204	23%	186	12%	212

Appendix "E": Proficiency Level and Scale Score by State (8th Reading)										
	White		Hispanic		Black		Low Income		Students w/ Disabilities	
	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale
	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score
U.S. Average	41%	272	18%	251	15%	248	18%	251	7%	230
Texas	42%	274	17%	254	15%	252	16%	253	6%	230
Kansas	41%	272	18%	254	15%	248	22%	256	6%	231
Florida	38%	270	27%	259	14%	248	20%	254	9%	235

Appendix "F": Proficiency Level and Scale Score by State (4th Math)										
	White		Hispanic		Black		Low Income		Students w/ Disabilities	
	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale
	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score
U.S. Average	52%	249	24%	229	17%	224	24%	229	17%	218
Texas	60%	253	29%	235	25%	232	28%	234	19%	220
Kansas	56%	251	26%	235	18%	227	33%	238	19%	225
Florida	52%	250	31%	236	18%	226	26%	232	18%	223

Appendix "G": Proficiency Level and Scale Score by State (8th Math)										
	White		Hispanic		Black		Low Income		Students w/ Disabilities	
	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale	Percent	Scale
	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score	Proficient	Score
U.S. Average	43%	293	20%	269	12%	262	19%	269	9%	249
Texas	58%	304	31%	283	21%	277	28%	281	15%	261
Kansas	47%	295	22%	274	16%	269	24%	276	10%	257
Florida	37%	287	22%	274	11%	258	16%	267	9%	250

Source: Nation's Report Card, 2011 State results

*Current Per-Pupil Spending (no capital or debt) according to U.S. Census reports for 2010:
 Kansas \$9,715...Texas \$8,746 and Florida \$8,741*



Measurement from 2003 is significant because it's the year the state adopted new curricular standards and the first year the state achieved 100 percent participation from schools identified to participate in NAEP, ensuring the validity and reliability of the results. – KSDE, November 2011

Table 1: Reading - Grade 4 (NAEP)						
Scale scores and % of students in specific achievement levels						Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at Current Pace
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	
All Students Score (500 max)	220	220	225	224	224	130.7
% Below basic	34%	34%	28%	28%	29%	
% Proficient+	33%	32%	36%	35%	36%	
Low Income Students Score	206	208	212	213	212	99.2
% Below basic	49%	47%	43%	40%	42%	
% Proficient+	18%	20%	21%	22%	23%	

Table 2: Reading - Grade 8 (NAEP)						
Scale scores and % of students in specific achievement levels						Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at Current Pace
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	
Score (500 max)	266	267	267	267	267	Never
% Below basic	23%	22%	19%	20%	21%	
% Proficient+	35%	35%	35%	33%	35%	
Low Income Students Score	253	254	253	255	256	Never
% Below basic	36%	35%	34%	33%	32%	
% Proficient+	22%	21%	20%	19%	22%	

Table 3: Mathematics - Grade 4 (NAEP)						
Scale scores and % of students in specific achievement levels						Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at Current Pace
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	
All Students Score (500 max)	242	246	248	245	246	42.3
% Below basic	15%	12%	11%	11%	10%	
% Proficient+	41%	47%	51%	46%	48%	
Low Income Students Score	231	235	237	236	238	46.2
% Below basic	25%	20%	19%	18%	15%	
% Proficient+	24%	30%	34%	32%	33%	

Table 4: Mathematics - Grade 8 (NAEP)						
Scale scores and % of students in specific achievement levels						Years to Reach 85% Proficiency at Current Pace
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	
All Students Score (500 max)	284	284	290	289	290	50.3
% Below basic	24%	23%	19%	21%	20%	
% Proficient+	34%	34%	40%	39%	41%	
Low Income Students Score	270	270	275	276	276	97.6
% Below basic	39%	39%	33%	33%	32%	
% Proficient+	19%	19%	23%	24%	24%	



How Many More Generations of Kids Will Be Left Behind While Waiting for Achievement Levels to Inch Forward under the Current System?

Reads Grade-Appropriate Material with Full Comprehension

School Year	All	11th Grade Students		
		Hispanic	Black	Low Income
2006	51.9%	28.1%	26.0%	32.9%
2007	51.5%	24.2%	25.8%	32.0%
2008	49.6%	24.4%	25.9%	31.6%
2009	50.7%	25.3%	28.0%	33.0%
2010	52.6%	26.8%	31.4%	35.3%
2011	54.9%	30.7%	35.3%	38.7%
2012	56.1%	32.3%	37.6%	39.3%
Avg. annual gain (points)	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.1
Years to reach 87%	45.9	80.4	26.7	45.3

Source: Kansas Department of Education, State Assessment Results; percentage of students at or above Exceeds Standard. KSDE reports that 87% of students Meet Standards but full comprehension of grade-appropriate material is not required to Meet Standards. KSDE considers full comprehension to be Advanced and Exceeds Standard.