



Kansas PTA

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Testimony to House Committee on Education

Chair, Representative Ron Highland

Monday, February 23, 2015

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1:30 pm Room 112-N

Kansas PTA stands Opposed to HB 2292 – Development and establishment of K12 curriculum standards.

Chairman Highland and Committee Members,

The Kansas PTA is opposed to this bill that would ban Kansas students from becoming College and Career Ready. We strongly recommend that the legislature leave the review and development of K12 Education Standards in the hands of those freely elected to the Kansas State Board of Education, with consultation from expertise of Kansas Department of Education, as dictated in Article 6 of the State Constitution.

Our opposition to this bill is in alignment with the Kansas PTA mission and legislative platform. The emerging nature and volume of bills out of alignment with the [Kansas PTA Legislative Platform](#) and challenging the quality of Kansas K-12 public education, is raising concerns among parents and teachers.

A number of specific elements of this bill are problematic, to identify a few:

1. Common Core State Standards is inaccurately defined in this bill. For example, Next Generation Science Standards had nothing to do with the process the developed the Common Core Standards.

(f) "common core state standards" means the common core standards adopted by the Kansas state board of education on or after October 12, 2010, and any subsequent amendments to the common core standards.

"Common core state standards" includes "common core state standards for English language arts & literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects," "common core state standards for mathematics,"

"Kansas college and career ready standards" and "next generation science standards."

2. Statutory prohibition of a reasonable choice is irresponsible and inappropriate.

“(b) Any education entity or any state official shall not join any consortium or any other organization when participation in “Prohibits testing by consortium – limited future viable option for “subcontracting”

3. Voiding the ability of our K12 education system to prepare youth for career and post-secondary education is irresponsible, unnecessary, inappropriate, unconstitutional, and a financial wasteful endeavor:

(c) Any actions taken by any education entity or any state official to adopt, implement or align programs, assessments, testing, surveys or any educational materials or activities to the common core state standards, the social, emotional and character development standards, the national curriculum standards for social studies, the national health education standards, the national sexuality education standards, core content and skills, K-12 or any other academic standards not in the public domain, free of any copyright, as of July 1, 2015, are void.

4. An over-reach of state government, into the business of locally controlled school boards.

No expenditure on “common core” related staff development nor materials, regardless of funding source.

5. Again, prohibiting assessments or past standards from alignment with common core and rescinding our waiver along with the associated federal funding to help students with special needs achieve standards is irresponsible, unnecessary, inappropriate, unconstitutional, and a financial wasteful endeavor:

New Sec. 5. The state board of education shall rescind any requirement, agreement or waiver, including the no child left behind waiver, with the United States department of education or any other federal agency which conditioned the receipt of federal funding upon the board revising educational curriculum standards to align with the common core state standards.

Why the Kansas College and Career Education Standards are Critical to Help Students Achieve Their Full Potential

- We need clear, consistent and rigorous standards across the country.
- We need standards that are relevant to the real world and ensure all students graduate college and career ready.
- The Standards were developed to help close our country's achievement gap and make sure that every student achieves his/her full potential.
- The standards reflect the knowledge and skills that young people need to succeed in college and the workplace.
- The standards are essential to ensure all students, regardless of their zip code, graduate prepared for postsecondary education and to compete in the global economy.

Kansas PTA strongly supports the Kansas Board of Education and their thorough, profession and inclusive process for development our states K12 education standards. Kansas PTA member have dedicated ourselves to making sure that **every** child in **every** school in **every** community is prepared for college or career. Kansas education standards are designed to accomplish these goals.

- ✓ We want every child in Kansas to be prepared to succeed after high school - whether they go right into the workforce or into postsecondary education - and that means our standards have to include the skills they will need for college and careers.
- ✓ We think expectations for our students should be consistent with those in other states that are reaching higher to ensure students are prepared - and College and Career State Standards provide those rigorous expectations.
- ✓ The business community - those who create jobs and economic opportunity - strongly support the common core state standards as well as next generation science standards.
- ✓ Our teachers and school leaders agree that these standards are beneficial for our students and they want to continue the work they started years ago.

Reverting to old standards when we are two years out of the renewal date would be extremely damaging to the children in Kansas who attend public schools. The Board and Department of Education have already initiated public input on the standards, via an online survey. A legislative mandate to override the judgment and expertise of our elected school board members **would require Kansas educators to disregard years of investment** in time, resources and energy expended to strengthen educational outcomes for Kansas youth.

True education reform will never exist until the WANTS of adults no longer overshadow the NEEDS of children. Our children deserve a quality education. As parents and child advocates, we want you to support our educators, our children and our state by not interfering with the implementation of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards.

Thank you for your consideration

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The mission and values of the PTA have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago:

PTA Mission - to facilitate every child's potential by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Through advocacy, as well as family and community education over the century, PTA has established programs and [called for legislation](#) that improves our children's lives including: the creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, public health service, hot and healthy lunch programs, juvenile justice system, mandatory immunization, arts in education and school safety.

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities.