

**Written testimony before the  
House Education Committee  
on HB 2289  
submitted by  
Mark Crawford, Superintendent, Hugoton Schools, USD #210**

Honorable Chair Kelley and members of the House Education Committee, the following is my written testimony related to the concerns I have with HB 2289. My specific concern is related to any and all language that prohibits the implementation of the educational standards known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). I want to share from two perspectives. First as an instructional leader of a 4A school district for the past six years, and secondly as the co-chair of the KSSA College and Career Readiness committee.

**At Hugoton Schools**, the majority of my ELA and Math teachers attended the first KSDE, June 2011, CCSS trainings. They came back excited and after four summer, collaborative teacher sessions, our Administrative Team had the support and needed momentum to make an aggressive transition into the CCSS. Now, after three semesters of building common core units for math and English Language Arts, writing our own common assessments, combined with a complete abandonment of the retired state standards, we have a total and complete commitment to the CCSS. If this bill is approved, it would set back our efforts to have a guaranteed and viable curriculum at least five years.

At USD 210 our principals and teachers are believers in the CCSS because they are:

- fewer, clearer, higher
- aligned with college and work expectations
- include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills
- internationally benchmarked, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
- based on evidence and research
- more rigorous and require our students to write more
- Developed and adopted at USD 210 with no pressure or any involvement from the federal government and no pressure of implementation from KSDE

My teachers overwhelmingly support these new state standards, because they want their own children in a public school system, which is using standards to tilt the odds and give all children a much greater chance for post high school success.

I also served with Dr. Cindy Lane, Superintendent USD 500, as a co-chair of the KSSA College and Career Readiness committee. Our work on this committee greatly influenced a new College and Career Readiness definition adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education. The committee's charge was not have a specific statement related to the CCSS; however, I will say, to my knowledge every superintendent serving on the committee, is a big supporter of these new state standards, as evidenced by their leadership to aggressively support the adoption of these in each respective district.

As a KSSA committee, our main charge was to study the best assessments to measure these new standards. We knew that KSDE and the State Board of Education had a huge decision to make related to the next assessment system to suffice state accountability and also the Department of Education. Therefore, we studied three assessment systems.

- **Smarted Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)**
- **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium and**
- **New ACT Assessment System - ACT Aspire (grades 3-8) and EXPLORE, PLAN and traditional ACT test (9-12 grade)**

### **KSSA College and Career Readiness Definition**

**College AND Career Readiness is determined by academic/cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability/soft skills and career interest development.**

#### **Academic/Cognitive Preparation and Technical Skills are determined by:**

- a. Level of performance on college readiness exams (Reading, Math, English, and Science) for full admittance to post-secondary institutions without the need for remediation (non-credit bearing courses) and/or
- b. Achievement of technical credential or industry certification (such as welding or Certified Nursing Assistant etc.)

**The main focus of the committee was to promote the definition, but we also overwhelmingly supported the ACT assessment system as the best assessment for Kansas to adopt.**