

**Common Core Standards with Commission Posny
June 15, 2009
Kansas State Department of Education – Board Room/IDL**

Attendance (in person)

Alexa Posny	Commissioner, KSDE
Diane DeBacker	Deputy Commissioner, KSDE
Cheryl Semmel	USA Kansas
Jacque Feist, Dodge City USD	USA Kansas – KASSP
Rod Garman, Marion USD	USA Kansas – KAESP
Brenda Dietrich, Auburn Washburn USD	USA Kansas – KASA
Rob Vinduska, Seaman USD	USA Kansas – KASSP
Steve Splichal, Hiawatha USD	USA Kansas – KASCD
Billie Jo Drake, Fort Scott USD	USA Kansas – KAESP
Joe Ryan, Smoky Hill Education Service Center	USA Kansas – KCCTEA
John Koepke	KASB
Pam Robinson, Blue Valley USD	KASB
Blake West	KNEA and KLFA

Attendance (IDL)

Becky Cezar, Haysville USD	USA Kansas – KASEA
Sharon Bell	KNCA
John Heim, Emporia USD	USA Kansas
Gay Younkin, Mulvane USD	USA Kansas – KASEA

Handouts/presentations

- Powerpoint presented to the P-20 Education Council, Commissioner Alexa Posny
- CCSSO/NGA Center for Best Practices Common Core Standards Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- “U.S. Department of Education offers States math, reading stimulus,” Lawrence Journal World. June 15, 2009.

CCSSO/NGA Center for Best Practices Common Core Standards Memorandum of Agreement

Kansas (Governor Parkinson and Commissioner Posny) has signed onto a MOA supporting a state-led process to develop and work towards adoption of a common core of standards for K-12 English language arts and math. Forty-nine (49) states (including D.C. and territories) have signed onto the MOA. A copy of the MOA is attached.

Currently, the emphasis is on only high school standards and assessing the alignment gap between high school and postsecondary education. Commissioner Posny informed the group that the P-20 Education Council had appointed an Alignment Team to review the current Kansas high school standards in reading and math and to identify assessments that Kansas uses that measure the skills needed to be work-ready and/or prepared for postsecondary education. That group has received \$15,000 to complete an end of high school review. The Alignment Team will report back in July.

Commissioner Posny emphasized that all discussions were currently focused on developing common core standards, not national standards. NGA, CCSSO, the American Diploma Project (ADP) and College Board have all been a part of the conversation. The Commissioner reiterated that Kansas already had high quality standards and that this would not lower our standards.

Additional conversation focused on the importance of integrating 21st Century Skills and appropriate professional development. Currently, many 21st Century Skills are taught in career and technical education.

Draft core curriculum standards will likely be released mid-July.

American Diploma Project/Achieve, Inc.

The American Diploma Project (ADP) is an Achieve initiative created to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared to face the challenges of work and college. Kansas is one of thirty-six (36) states working with the American Diploma Project. Sixteen of those states (according to Commissioner Posny) are working towards the development of core standards. To date, this effort is voluntary and the work is centered on developing broad indicators, with the expectation that states will establish appropriate benchmarks and curriculum/resource decisions will be made at the local level.

Assessments

Assessment would be based on core curriculum standards, but not developed by the U.S. Department of Education. Once a new assessment is developed, it will be 2-3 years before valid/reliable.

Any new assessment would likely replace the current high school assessment. There was lengthy discussion about 1) not aligning a new assessment to a bad system, 2) whether this could replace the ACT, 3) ensuring that this did not become a high stakes high school exit exam and 4) developing an authentic assessment that is reliable, stands up to NCLB and measures 21st Century Skills.

Additional conversation:

- Social studies assessment is postponed.
- The writing assessment is postponed through next year; it is uncertain whether that it included in the English language arts discussion.
- Kansas will not pursue implementing a student growth model until standards are developed.

Funding

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced last night that the Department of Education will commit up to \$350 million of the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top Fund to support states in the creation of rigorous assessments linked to the internationally benchmarked common standards being developed by states. Initially, it appeared that only 10 states would be selected; however, that could change.

The Department of Education will conduct a national competition among states this year for \$4 billion of the Race to the Top Fund to improve education quality and results statewide. The Race to the Top Fund will support states' effort to drive substantial gains in student achievement. These grants will focus on four reform goals – using data to drive instruction, raising standards, turning around historically low-performing schools, and improving teacher and principal quality.