

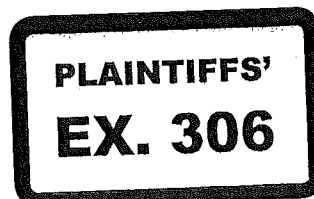
## TRADITIONAL REPUBLICANS FOR COMMON SENSE

### EDUCATION AND TAXES POLICY

When the pioneers started across the plains of Kansas and settled in our state the first institutions that were created were churches and schools. God and education have always been important to the people of our state and the Kansas constitution reminds us that the first responsibility of the Kansas legislature is to ensure the education of our children. It is the right of every child to a fair and equal education and Kansans believe it is a moral obligation as well. Our children are among the best educated in the country. We have drawn companies to Kansas, especially to the corridor from Johnson county to Lawrence to Manhattan because of the education that is available from early childhood through higher education.

Our agricultural communities have been able to feed more and more people with fewer farmers because our farmers and ranchers grow smarter through education; thus enabling them to continue to live on the farms of their ancestors in a technological age.

The results of competitive examinations ACT, SAT and Kansas own statewide exams show that Kansas students do better than the average of other students across the country consistently and continue to improve on a yearly basis. (attachment 1). One of the reasons for this has been the statewide school finance formulae which have been in place since the early 1970's. The Kansas legislature has been able to put together over the years formulas which allow schools all over the state to share in the wealth of the entire state-a combination of property, sales, income and other general taxes. The formula is complicated, but takes into account where there are unusually difficult conditions - such as children with special educational needs, English as a second language, high poverty rates, vocational needs and other special circumstances. Seldom does a year go by without some modification to the formula to improve something, so it is not



static, but a living document.

The legislature as recently as December of 2010 received a study from the 2010 Commission which it appointed in 2005 for a 5 year study of the education system in Kansas by a bipartisan group made up of citizens, legislators and former legislators. At the end of that extensive study the conclusion was reached that the formula presently in place was adequate *if properly funded*. Johnson county has built much of its economic growth on the reputation of its schools and is searching for ways to continue that excellence. Modification to the formula should be possible to allow that excellence and preserve the constitutional equity. It is not presently possible as the money is not being provided; although the money is presently available in the state general fund.

The Commission received a number of studies done by Legislative Post Audit including this one from January of 2006: Elementary and Secondary Education in Kansas: Estimating the Costs of K-12 Education Using Two Approaches. In this study by the legislature's own Post Audit findings included this very telling paragraph:

"We found a strong association between the amounts districts spend and the outcomes they achieve. *In the cost function results, a 1.0% increase in district performance outcomes was associated with a 0.83 % increase in spending - almost a one-to-one relationship.* This means that all other things being equal, **districts that spent more had better student performance.**

The results were statistically significant beyond the 0.01 level, which means we can be more than 99% confident there is a relationship between spending and outcomes."

Providing adequate funding to the present formula will result in increased outcomes, i.e. more kids read better and learn to add and subtract, multiply and divide and ultimately do advanced mathematics.

As we now turn to the issue of how we finance the education of our children we face not only a financial issue, but also a moral one. Over the years Kansas legislators and governors have built the revenue stream of state government on what is often called the "three-legged stool" - income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes. This means nearly everyone has to pay something, and supposedly the more you have - whether its income or property - the more you pay; but even those with almost nothing, pay sales tax. Property taxes now make up 35% sales and use taxes almost 28%, income and privilege taxes almost 24%; leaving other miscellaneous taxes around 13%. The ideal balance would be one-third apiece according to many tax experts and Kansas is already out of balance with that concept. The idea that Kansas should gradually eliminate the income tax means the other two main sources of taxes - property and sales taxes would be required to take up the responsibility of supporting government. That means middle and lower income tax payers who are already struggling to pay **their** bills would be required to pay the state's bills. The argument that new businesses and corporations would move to Kansas to provide new jobs might be true; however there is sure to be a time span of 5, 10 or maybe even 20 years before a significant increase happens. What do our children do for an education in that time? How do we pay for their educations? That is the moral dilemma!

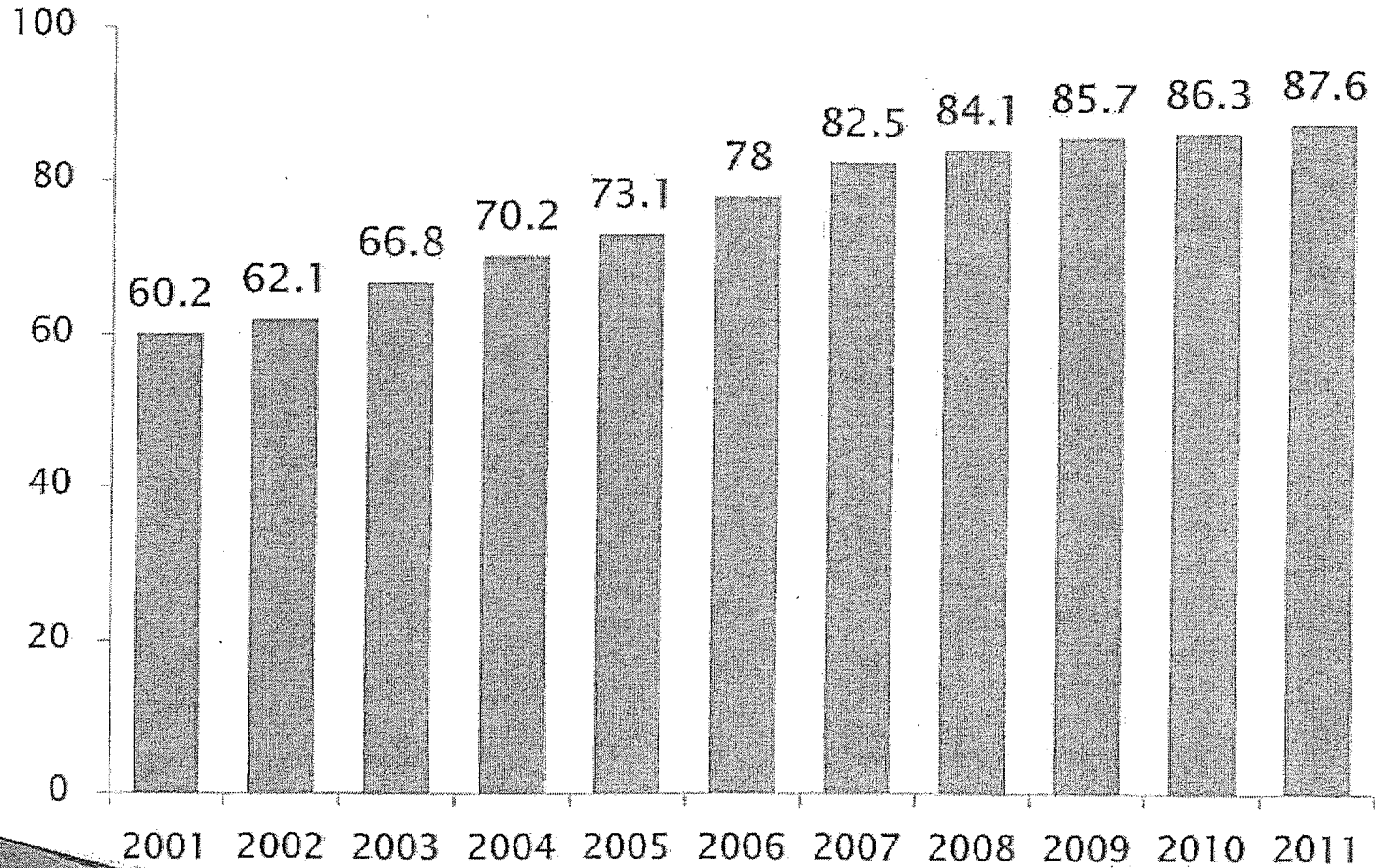
The 48 former Republican legislators that you see signed below represent over 500 years of legislative experience and include: A former President of the State Senate, Speakers of the House, Majority Leaders of the House and Senate, a U.S. Senator and a U.S. Congresswoman, chairmen of the House and Senate Ways and Means and Appropriation committees, Budget committees, Tax committees, Education committees, Commerce and Economic Development committees, a Chairman, National Committeeman and National Committeewoman of the Republican party and many others. They all raise their voices in concern over these issues and over

the looming crisis for our children's education. This is truly a moral crisis for our state asking the poorest to pay more and the richest to pay less is unfair.

U.S. Sen. Sheila Frahm  
U.S. Rep. Jan Meyers  
Lt-Gov. Gary Sherrer  
Sen. Dick Bond  
Rep. Wendell Lady  
Rep. R. H Miller  
Rep. Jim Braden  
Rep Rochelle Chronister  
Sen. Alicia Salisbury  
Rep. Steve Cloud  
Sen. Fred Kerr  
Rep. Bob Frey  
Sen. Tim Emert  
Sen. Audrey Langworthy  
Rep Jim Yonally  
Rep. R.D. Miller  
Rep. Fred Lorentz  
Rep. Ron Fox  
Rep. Ed Rolfs  
Sen. Wint Winter, Jr.  
Rep. Rex Hoy  
Rep. Cindy Neighbor  
Rep. Jim Lowther  
Rep. Cindy Empson  
Sen. Barbara Allen  
Rep. Fred Gatlin  
Rep. Sandy Duncan  
Rep. Jayne Aylward  
Rep. Ray Cox  
Rep. David Huff  
Rep. Gerry Ray  
Sen. Carolyn Tillotson  
Rep. Ellen Samuelson

Rep. Ginger Barr  
Sen. Jane Eldredge  
Rep. Nancy Brown  
Rep. John Golden  
Sen. Lana Oleen  
Rep. Lisa Benlon  
Rep. Denise Apt  
Rep. Lloyd Stone  
Rep. Phil (Big Phil) Kline  
Rep. Bill Light  
Rep. Susan Roenbaugh  
Rep Dan Johnson  
Sen. David Corbin

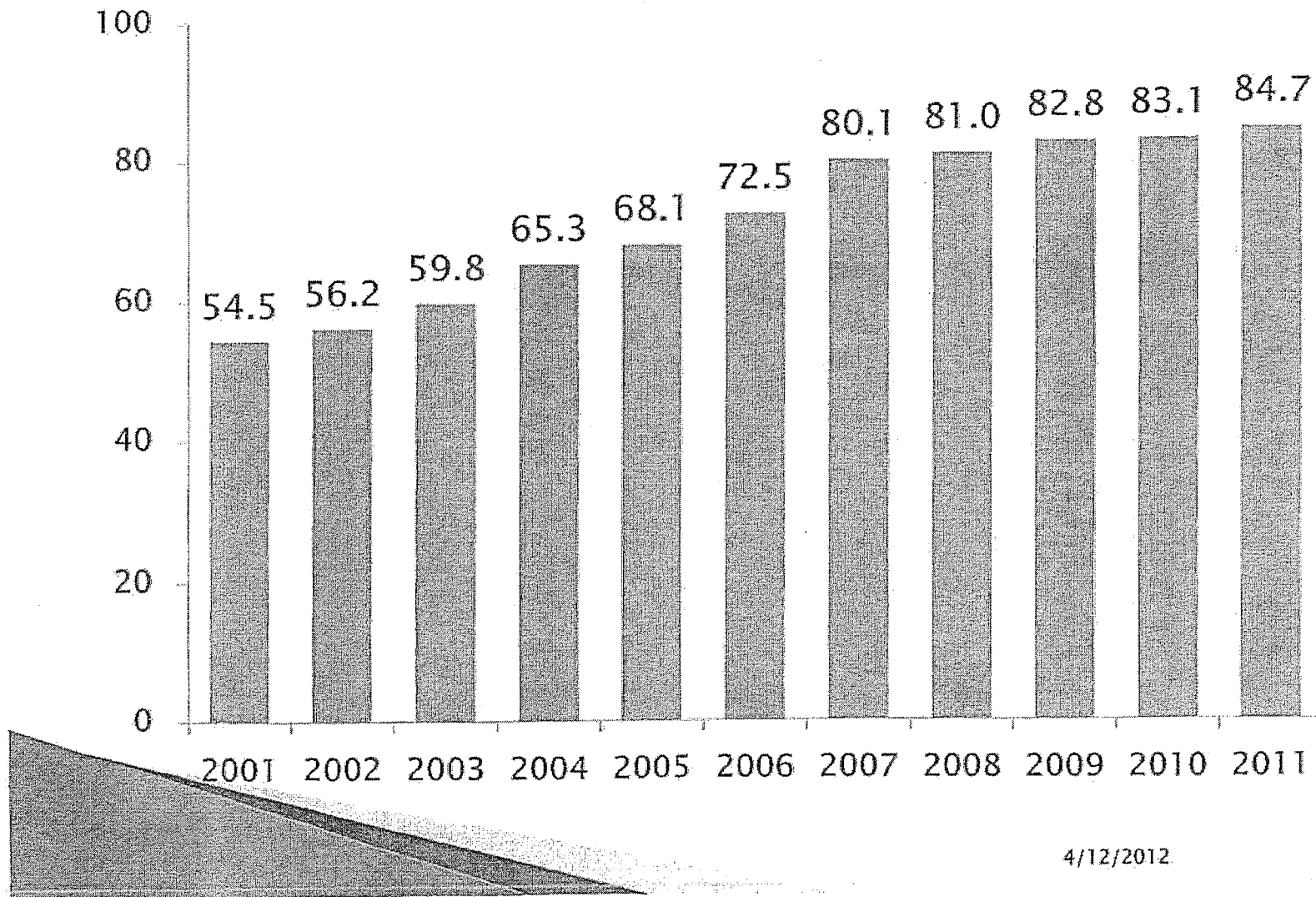
# Kansas Reading, All Students



4/12/2012

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# Kansas Math, All Students

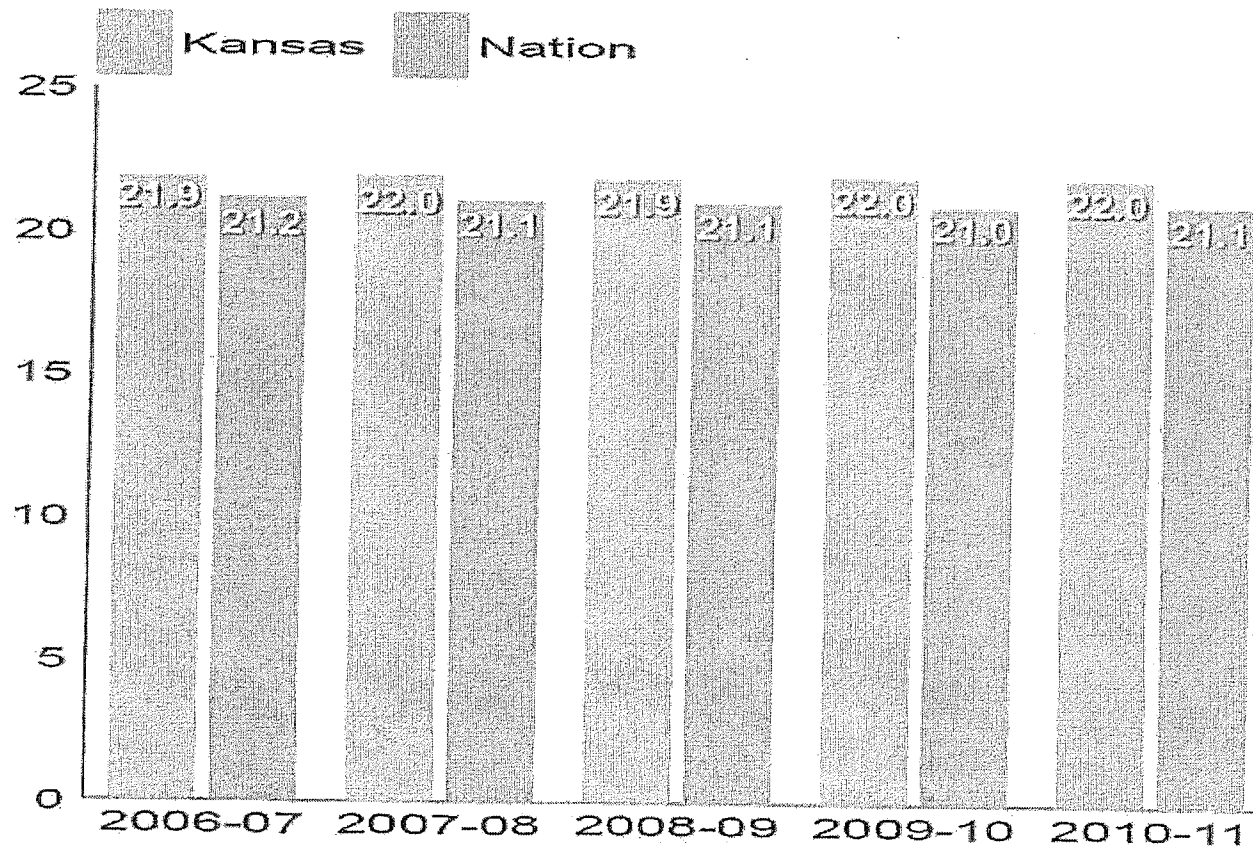


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# ACT Trends

*(approximately 80% of graduating seniors participate)*



4/12/2012

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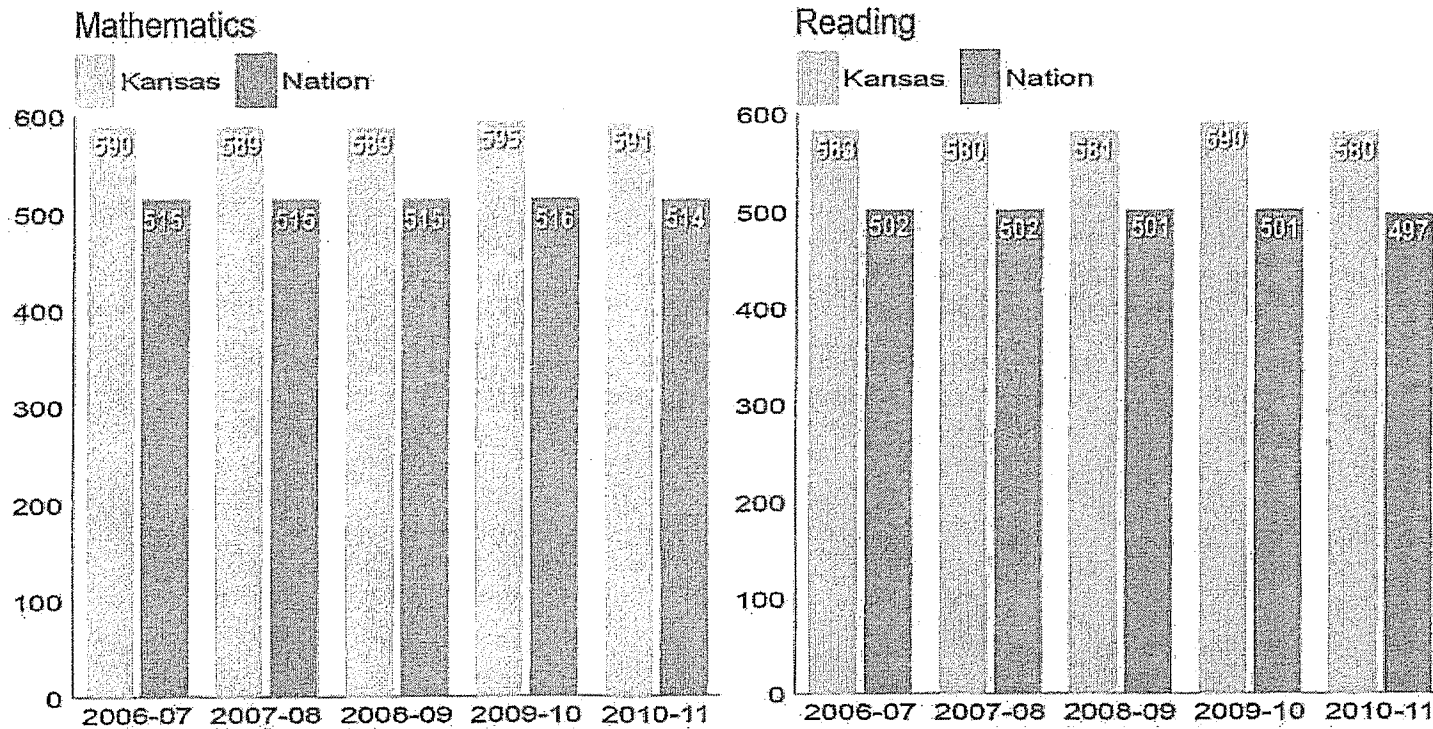
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# SAT Trends

*(approximately 7% of graduating seniors participate)*

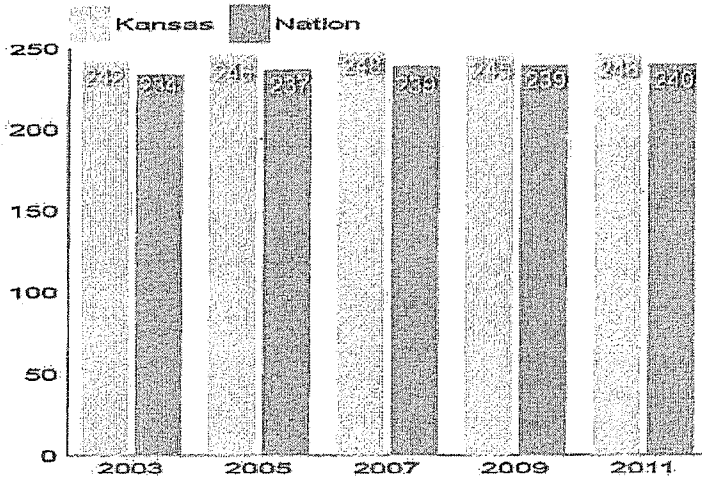


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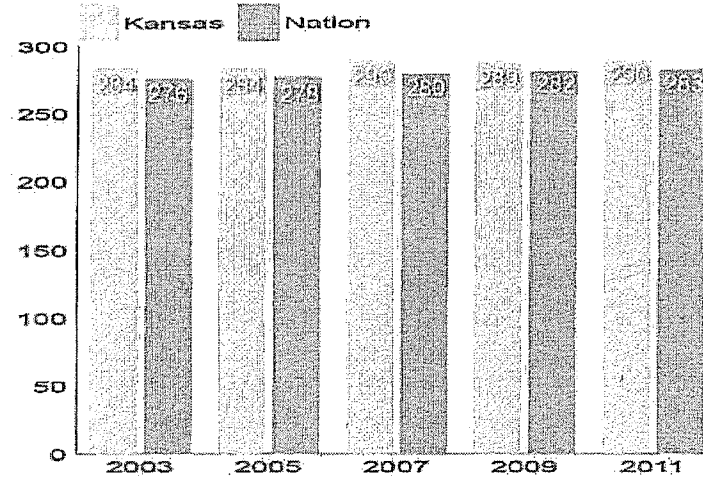
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# NAEP

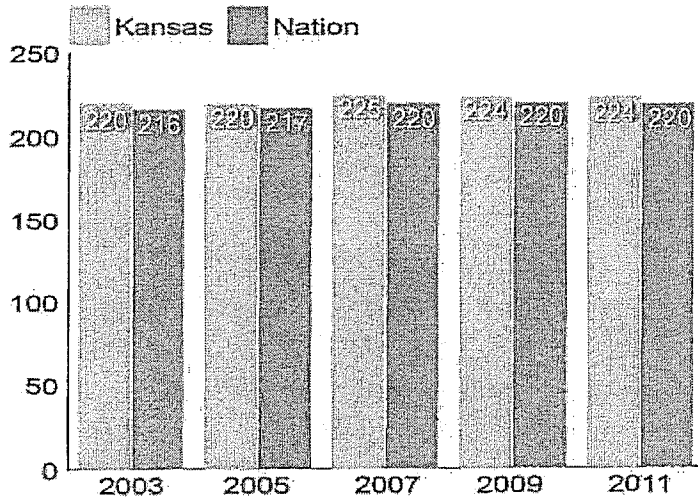
Mathematics - 4th Grade



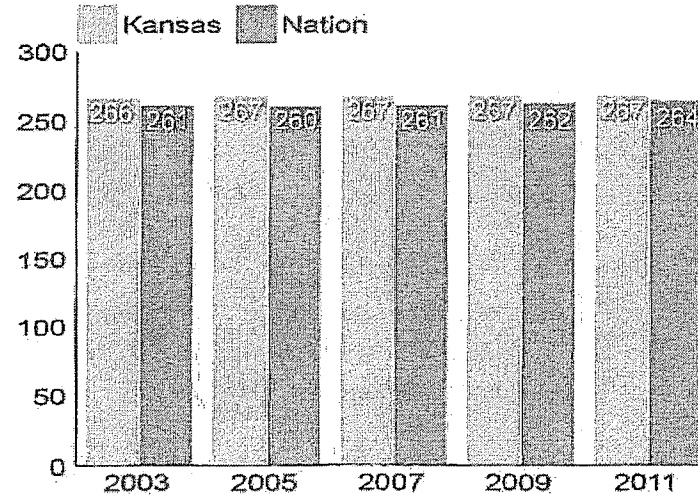
Mathematics - 8th Grade



Reading - 4th Grade



Reading - 8th Grade



4/12/2012

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