

From: Diane M. DeBacker

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Earlier this morning, the Fordham Institute, a nonprofit think tank, released the State of Standards-and the Common Core--in 2010. I thought you should be aware of the report since a press release was issued by Fordham and it's possible that you may receive calls from reporters. Chiefs were briefed on the contents of the report on Tuesday; however, the actual report was embargoed until 12:01 AM today.

The report examines the standards in each state comparing them to the Common Core Standards. Kansas is among 32 other states whose standards in both English language arts and math are, in the opinion of the Fordham Institute, inferior to the Common Core Standards. The grade for our English language arts standards was a C. Our math standards received a grade of F. These are the same grades we received the last time Fordham issued a report in 2005. Our standards have not changed since that time.

Fordham rates the Common Core Standards high with an A- for mathematics and a B+ for English language arts. As stated in their talking points, "These ratings are not surprising given that the Common Core State Standards (Core Standards) draw upon the finest state and international standards." The report gives a clear message that the majority of states would be wise to adopt the Core Standards as they are superior to current state standards. The report also points out that states adopting the Core Standards will benefit from collaborating with one another on standards implementation, aligned assessments, materials, research and curricular options.

While this report strengthens the case for those eager to adopt the Common Core Standards, I must remind you, as I've done on numerous occasions, that this report is the opinion of one of thousands of independent groups. The Fordham Institute reflects particular views about what state standards should include and we all know this is a debate which will never be resolved in any content area. I expect we'll see similar reports in the months ahead from other organizations.

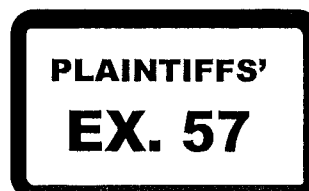
The report can be found at  
the-common-core-in-2010

<[http://edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news\\_the-state-of-state-standards-and-the-common-core-in-2010](http://edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news_the-state-of-state-standards-and-the-common-core-in-2010)> . Please note the full report is 373 pages long. Kansas information begins on page 133.

The state board will review the Common Core Standards in October and vote on adoption at the November or December KBOE meeting. If there are any concerns, please let me know soon. I still have an open mind; however, you should know that unless I learn something significant from members of our state board district, I do support the new standards.

Many states (25 as of the date of this letter) have already adopted the CCS so the point seems mute at this time. We also were informed by CCSSO staff that the Department of Education has clarified that only competitive grants will require adoption of the CCS and that formula grants will not be impacted. While this issue still concerns the rural states, we all believed the other issues would be more appropriate to address.

\*(As of July 31, 2010, 27 states have adopted the CCS)



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