



Making public schools great for every child.

KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

KNEA Supports State & Local Efforts Implementing Kansas College & Career Ready Standards

Responding to Comments by National Education Association President, Dennis Van Roekel

Topeka— Responding to questions surrounding last week's comments by National Education Association President, Dennis Van Roekel regarding a "course correction" on Common Core, **Karen Godfrey, President of Kansas National Education Association reiterated support for Kansas College and Career Ready Standards.** While Van Roekel's comments were relevant from a national perspective, **KNEA President Godfrey noted that "Kansas is in a much better place than many states."**

Van Roekel's comments focused upon issues relative to implementation, timelines, and assessments, which in many states are misaligned and have been forced into classrooms without proper collaboration and planning. States that are struggling are those where Common Core Standards have been pressed into practice for the purpose of making educators accountable, while as Van Roekel put it, "there has been little or no attempt to allow educators to share what's needed to get implementation right." **Van Roekel also made clear, "in states that have made a commitment to involving teachers up front and providing teachers with the time, training, and resources they need to make the standards work, educator support for the standards is strong."**

KNEA members report that implementation in some districts could be improved. **Specifically, teachers should have a strong voice in decision making.** This perspective was echoed in Van Roekel's comments. Yet overall, implementation hasn't been mishandled in our state. The Kansas State Department of Education has been very clear that the assessments being formulated in support of KCCRS are only a part of the measure of student growth. Further, the State Department of Education has resisted demanding a specific level of importance for the tests in Kansas school districts. The state has not rushed to prematurely put into effect accountability measures for teachers, which is helpful as teachers and students transition. **Under the Kansas State Department of Education plan for KCCRS implementation, local control of decision making has been accounted for. Local control is one aspect of implementation KNEA members value highly.**

KNEA continues to solicit feedback from its members as well as parents, administrators, and state representatives in an effort to collaboratively transition students towards rigorous standards designed to improve critical thinking and real-world skills. In partnership with the National Education Association, KNEA members recently participated in a nation-wide survey relative to Common Core implementation and improvement. KNEA provides its members with training and support including resources and lesson plans aligned to Common Core and KCCRS benchmarks. As Kansas moves forward with implementation efforts, KNEA will partner with educators throughout the state to strive for continual improvement for the benefit of all Kansas students.

###

Contact: Marcus Baltzell, Director of Communications
Kansas National Education Association
marcus.baltzell@knea.org 785.232.8271