Kansas Common Core Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects Fact Sheet 2012-2013

General Information

- State-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).
- Developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts.
- Provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn.
- Consistency in standards provides appropriate benchmarks for all students regardless of where they live.
- Standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers to graduate from high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

Kansas Adoption

- The Kansas State Board of Education formally adopted the Kansas Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics on October 12, 2010

Format of the Standards

- Inclusion of the four strands of English Language Arts:
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Listening and speaking
  - Language
- The benefits of an integrated literacy approach – <u>all</u> Kansas educators have a *shared responsibility* for literacy instruction, regardless of discipline or content area.
- A focus on results rather than means – "the *Standards* leave room for teachers, curriculum developers, and states to determine how those goals should be reached and what additional topics should be addressed" (p. 4).
- Efficiencies of scale – common standards allow for greater collaboration among states in the areas of
  - Professional development
  - Resource development
  - Teaching tools

College and Career Ready Students

- Demonstrate independence in "the 4 C's"
  - Comprehend complex text
  - Critique the craft used to create text
  - Construct rich understandings of content
  - Convey multifaceted meaning
- Build strong content knowledge through research and study
- Respond to varying demands of audience, purpose, task, and discipline in writing and speaking
  - Adjust purpose
  - Appreciate nuance
  - Provide evidence as appropriate to the discipline
- Use technology and digital media strategically and capably to deepen encounters with text and content and to present and share information
- Come to understand other perspective and cultures

Key Advances

- Reading
  - Balance of literature and informational texts
  - Text complexity
- Writing
  - Emphasis on argument and informative/explanatory writing
  - Writing about sources
- Standards for reading and writing in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects
  - Complement rather than replace content standards in those subjects
  - Responsibility of teachers in those subjects

Standards and Supporting Materials

- Link to the KSDE Common Core web pages:
  http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4605
  http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4754

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