

# Kansas Association of School Boards Overview of Kansas Education

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## **Key Questions**

- What student factors in Kansas have an impact on educational outcomes and costs?
- What outcomes do Kansas schools achieve?
- How much do Kansans pay for those outcomes?
- How does Kansas compare to the nation and other Plains and contiguous states?
- How can the state support continuing improvement in education?

## Why Education Matters

- Economic growth and productivity require higher skills.
- Higher skills are the key to international competitiveness.
- Academic failure is both an individual and social cost.
- Education is the key to the “American dream” - democracy and justice.

## Fact One

Kansas is NOT a mostly white, middle class, rural state.

- Kansas has a higher percentage of “at-risk” students than most Plains and contiguous states.
- These students are usually more difficult – and expensive – bring to high standards.

## Special Needs Students

As a percentage of students:

- Only Colorado and Oklahoma have more non-white students.
- Only Missouri and Oklahoma have more African American students.
- Only Colorado has more Hispanic students.
- Only Oklahoma and Missouri have more low-income students.

## Percent of Students in Subgroups

Source: Standards and Poors "School Matters"

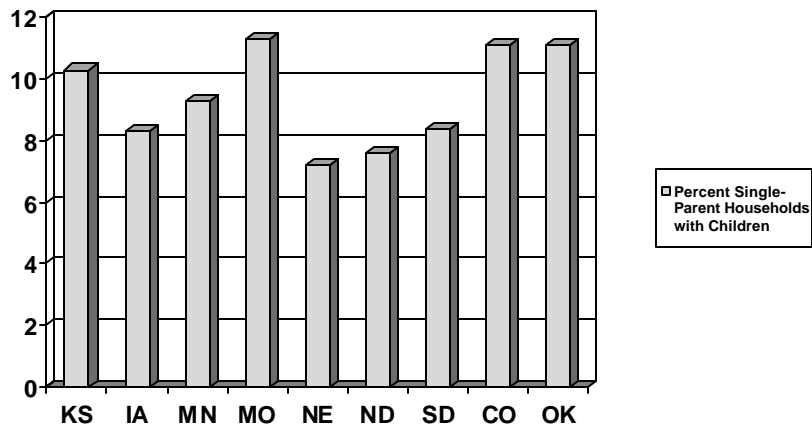
	White	Black	Hispanic	Low Income	Special Needs Index (S&P)
Kansas	75.3	8.7	10.8	37.4	28.0
Iowa	88.2	4.5	4.9	30.0	23.3
Minnesota	80.2	7.8	4.6	28.3	24.1
Missouri	77.7	18.0	2.6	38.0	27.8
Nebraska	79.5	7.2	10.1	33.9	27.7
N. Dakota	88.0	1.2	1.4	28.3	21.7
S. Dakota	85.0	1.5	1.8	31.5	24.3
Colorado	64.5	5.8	25.3	30.2	26.5
Oklahoma	61.5	10.9	7.6	53.0	37.1

## Special Needs Students

- Standard and Poor's gives Kansas the highest "students with special needs index" of any Plains state – only Oklahoma has more in the region.
- Only Missouri, Oklahoma and Colorado have a higher percentage of single-parent households with children.

Source: Standard and Poors "School Matters"

## Single-Parent Households



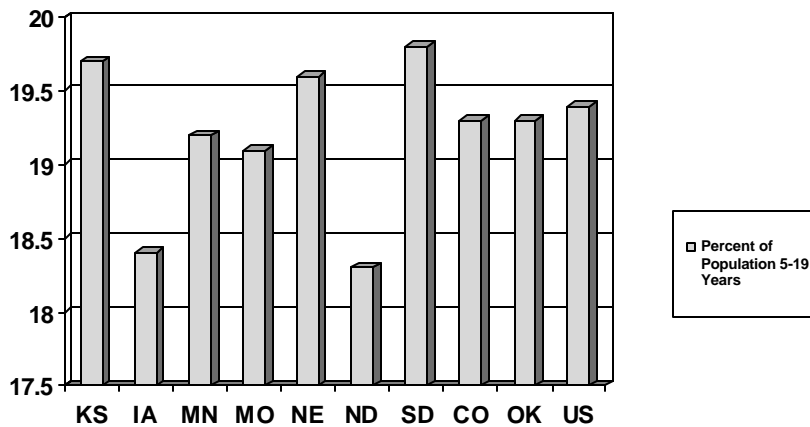
## Fact Two

Kansas has a relatively high percentage of school-aged population (19.7%).

- Higher than national average (19.4%).
- Higher than all neighboring states (Nebraska closest with 19.6%).
- Only South Dakota is higher (19.8%).

Source: Standard and Poor's "School Matters"

## School Age Population



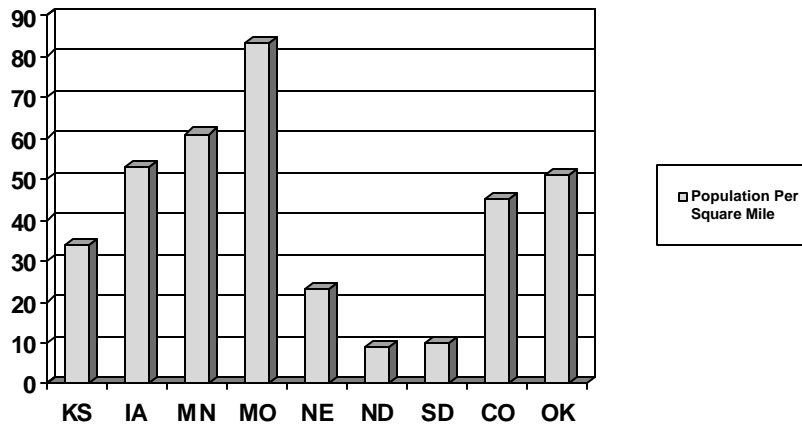
## Fact Three

Kansas is neither a relatively urban nor extremely sparsely populated state.

- Five states have much more population density than Kansas.
- Nebraska and the Dakotas have much less population density.
- Therefore, Kansas faces both major urban AND rural education issues.

Source: Standard and Poors "School Matters"

## Population Density



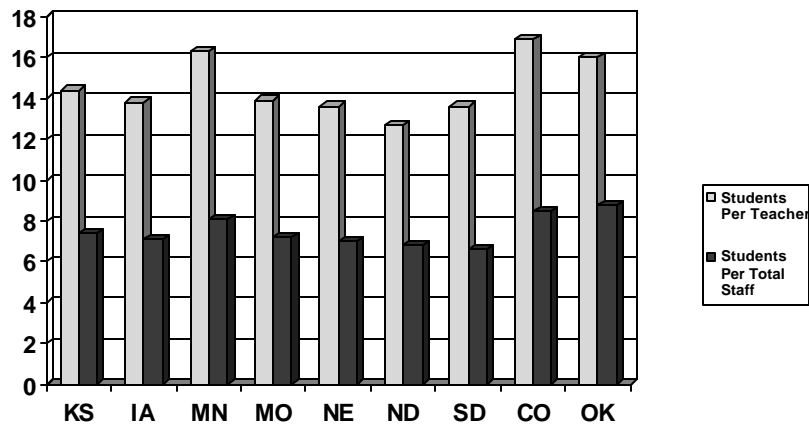
## Fact Four

Kansas “pupil to teacher” and “pupil to total staff” ratios are similar to other states in the region.

- Only Minnesota, Colorado and Oklahoma have more students per teacher and per total staff.
- Iowa and Missouri, with higher population density than Kansas, have fewer students per position.

Source: Standard and Poor's "School Matters"

### Teacher and Total Staff Ratio



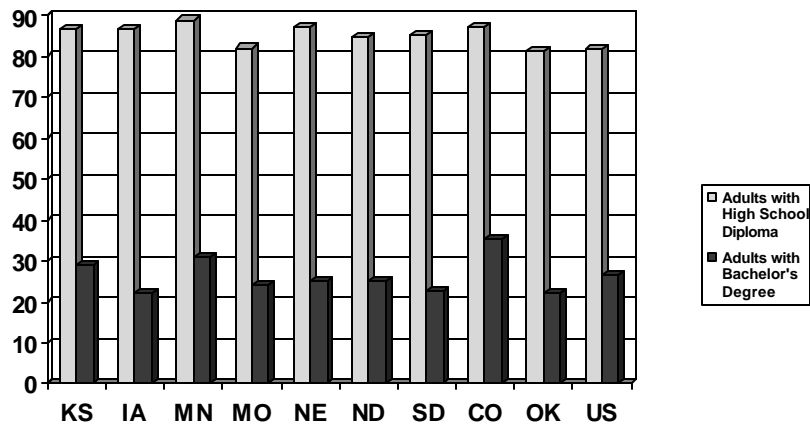
## Fact Five

Kansas ranks very high in adult educational attainment, nationally and regionally.

- 86.6% of Kansans have a high school diploma (national average 81.7%).
- 29.2% have at least a bachelors degree (national average 26.6%.)
- Regionally, only Colorado and Minnesota do better.

Source: Standard and Poors "School Matters"

## Adult Education Levels



## Fact Six

On the 2005 NAEP tests for reading and math, Kansas outscored the nation for all students and major “at-risk” subgroups.

Regionally, Kansas outscored all states except:

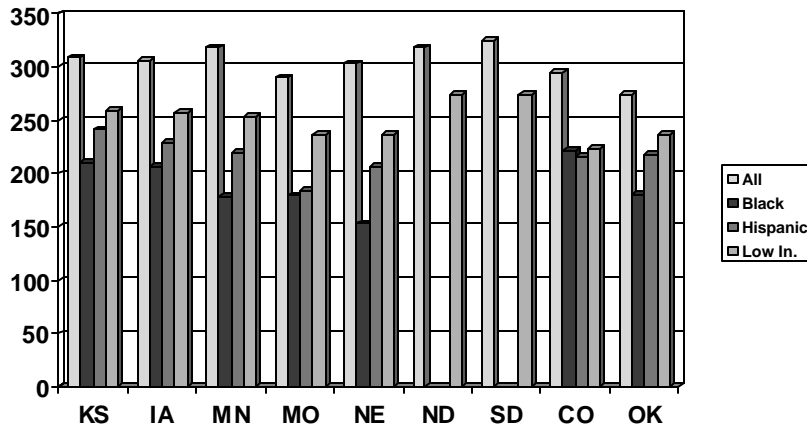
- Minnesota and the Dakotas for all students.
- Colorado for African Americans.
- The Dakotas for free lunch scores (with too few Black and Hispanic students to provide a score).
- Kansas Hispanics outscored all states in the region.

## Combined 2005 NAEP Scores

+ means higher score than Kansas

	All	Black	Hispanic	Low Income
Kansas	309	210	241	259
Iowa	306	207	229	257
Minnesota	318+	178	220	253
Missouri	290	179	184	236
Nebraska	303	153	206	236
N. Dakota	318+	N.A.	N.A.	280+
S. Dakota	325+	N.A.	N.A.	274+
Colorado	295	222+	216	223
Oklahoma	274	180	218	236
U.S.	280	193	216	221

## Combined 2005 NAEP Scores

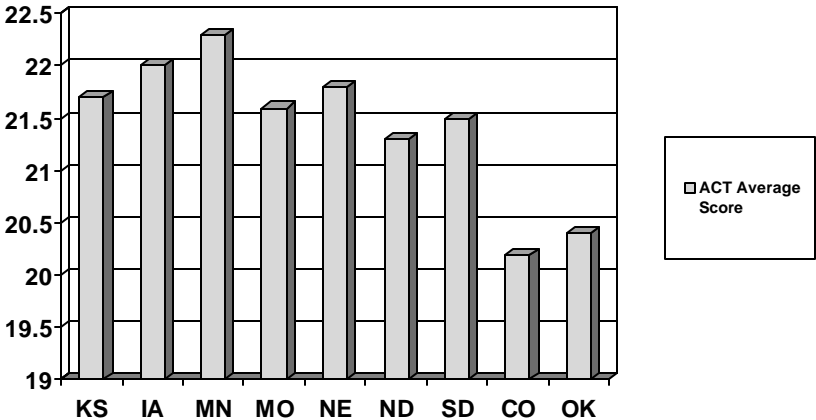


## Fact Seven

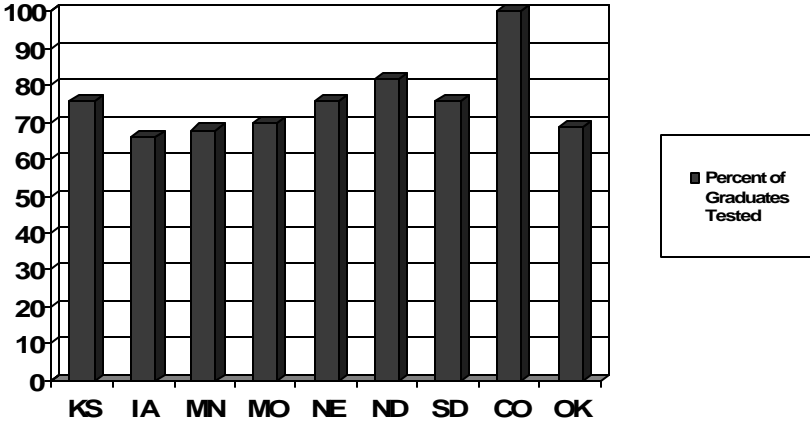
Kansas exceeds most states in college preparation tests.

- Only Iowa and Minnesota had higher average ACT test scores in 2005.
- Only North Dakota and Colorado had a higher percent of graduates take the ACT.
- Only Colorado and Minnesota had a higher percent of students receive a high score on EITHER the ACT or SAT.

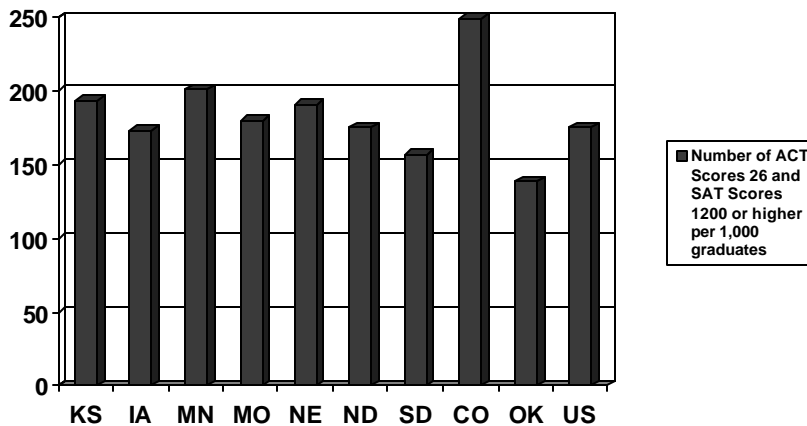
# Average Composite ACT Score



# Percent of Graduates Taking ACT



## High ACT and SAT Scores



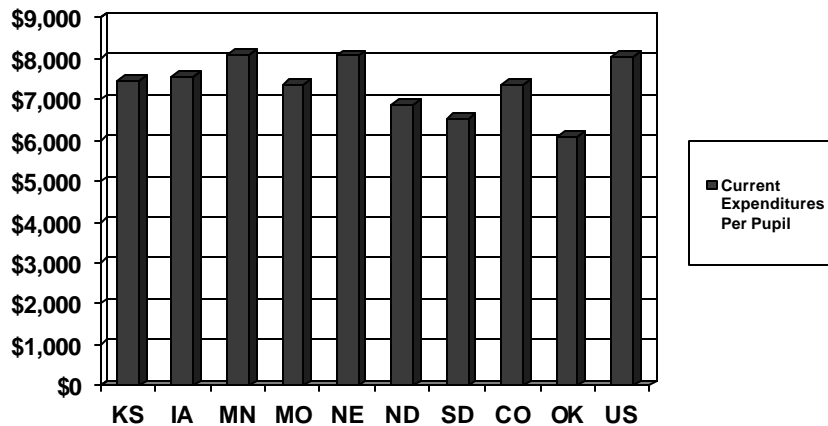
### Fact Eight

Kansas spent nearly \$500 less per pupil than the national average (2002-03).

- Nebraska and Minnesota spent significantly more per pupil than Kansas.
- Iowa, Missouri and Colorado spent about the same.
- Only the Dakotas and Oklahoma spent significantly less.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

## Spending Per Pupil, 2002-03



### Fact Nine

Spending per pupil matters in student achievement, but so do other factors.

- Minnesota spends most; has the highest NAEP scores for all students and among the best college preparation results.
- The Dakotas are low spenders and get high results – but have very few “at-risk” students.
- Nebraska, Iowa, and Colorado are “average” in spending and at-risk students; rank next in results.
- Oklahoma has the most at-risk students; spends the least; has lowest results.

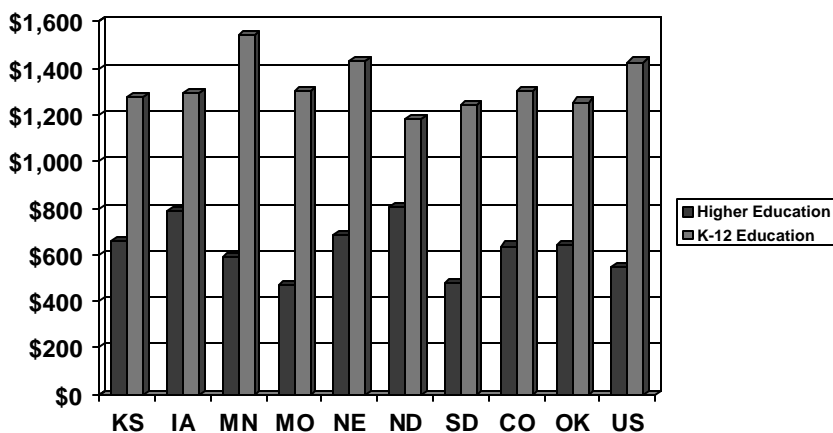
## Fact 10

Kansas *per capita* spending on all education is in line with states in the region and the nation.

- Compared to the nation, Kansas spends about:
  - \$200 less per capita on K-12 education.
  - \$100 more on higher education.
- In the region, only the Dakotas and Oklahoma spent less per capita on K-12 education.
- Every state in the region except Missouri and Oklahoma spent more on higher education than the national average.

Source: NEA Rankings and Estimates, 2004-05

## Per Capita Spending on Education



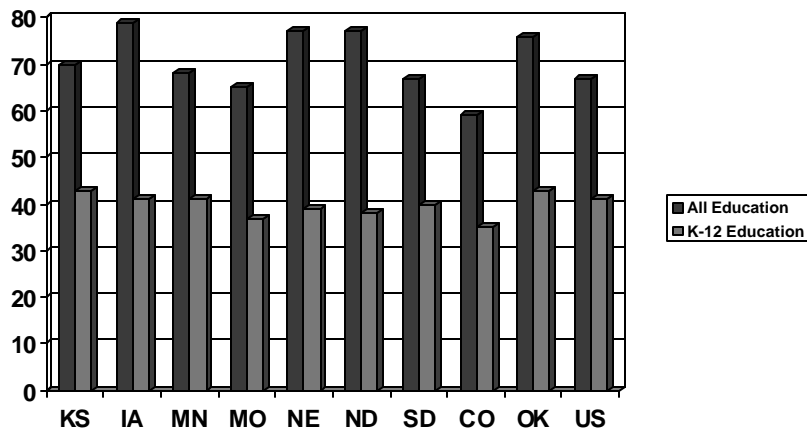
## Fact Eleven

Kansas spent more *per \$1,000 of personal income* on both all education and K-12 education than the national average.

- In the region, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and Oklahoma spent more than Kansas on all education.
- Kansas spent the most per \$1,000 on K-12 education.

Source: NEA Rankings and Estimates, 2004-05

## Education Spending Per \$1,000 of Personal Income in 2002



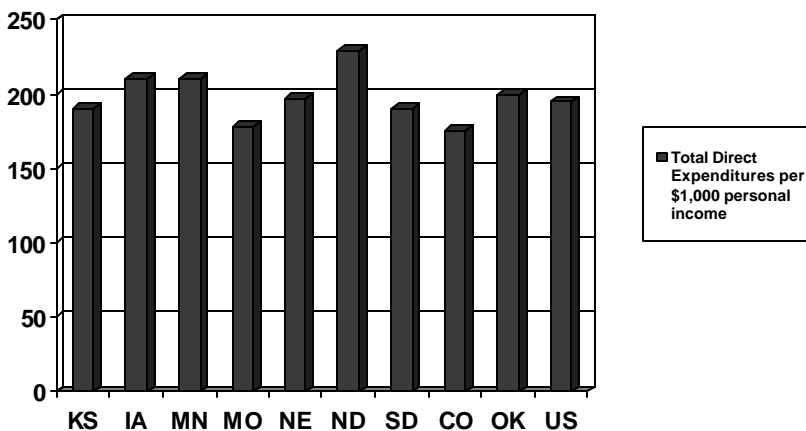
## Fact Twelve

Kansas education spending has not made Kansas a “high tax” state.

- Total state and local spending in Kansas per \$1,000 of personal income is below the national average.
- In the region, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Oklahoma spend more per \$1,000 of personal income.

Source: NEA Rankings and Estimates, 2004-05

## Total State and Local Spending Per \$1,000 of Personal Income in 2002



## **Are Kansans getting value for the dollars spent on public education?**

- Kansas has a higher percentage of “at-risk” students than most states in the region.
- Kansas spending per pupil is below the national average and similar to states in the region.
- Kansas educational spending per capita and taxpayer income is similar to states in the region.
- Kansas educational outcomes are consistently among the best in the region and better than the national average.

## **What do we know about funding and Kansas education performance?**

- State assessments show five years of steady improvement.
- Increased at-risk, special education and bilingual funding (federal, state and local) has narrowed the achievement gap.
- Despite conflicting national studies, Post Audit report shows clear relationship between spending and performance in Kansas (nearly one-to-one ratio).

## **What should the state do to keep education improvement on track?**

- Continue what is working: target more funding at students with the greatest need.
- Don't penalize success by reducing funding for districts that exceed current outcomes or input standards.
- Don't impose arbitrary new state standards (like "65% for instruction") that ignore local circumstances.

## **What should the state do to keep education improvement on track?**

- Don't divert education funding for unproven strategies such as vouchers or "independent" charter schools.
- When the system is improving, offer more flexibility and incentives for innovation and efficiencies, not restrictions and penalties.
- Encourage much more professional development and information-sharing.

## **What should the state do to keep education improvement on track?**

- Recognize and support the need for more time for students and staff.
- Support more flexibility in teacher compensation, contract negotiations and teacher credentials.
- Support increased teacher and administrator compensation, especially with incentives for performance.

# Expanded school choice doesn't improve student performance

*KASB Issue Paper – December 6, 2005*

New Kansas Education Commissioner Bob Corkins has made expanding school choice and competition his top priority, saying that private school vouchers and more public charter schools would improve education in the state.

However, the states with the highest percentage of students in charter schools, as well as those which provide state funding for private school vouchers, generally performed well below Kansas on national reading and math tests.

Student performance can be compared by examining results from the 2005 National Assessment of Education Progress. NAEP reports the percent of public school students who score basic or above in reading and math at grades four and eight. For each state, a NAEP test total can be determined by adding the percent at that level in each of the four tests. A “perfect score” would be 400.

	Charter School Enrollment as Percent of Total Public School Enrollment	2005 National Assessment of Education Progress Number is the combined percent of students scoring Basic and Above for Reading and Math, Grades Four and Eight (Maximum score 400)				Current Expenditures per Pupil, 2003
		(1) All Students	(2) Low Income Students	(3) Students with Disabilities	Average of Columns 1-3	
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>\$7,454</b>
<b>Ten “High Choice” States:</b>						
Delaware	5.3%	309	253	183	248	\$9,693
Ohio	3.3%	305	237	184	242	\$8,632
Wisconsin	3.0%	304	229	163	232	\$9,004
Colorado	4.6%	295	223	148	222	\$7,384
Michigan	4.4%	283	211	169	221	\$8,781
Florida	3.0%	278	233	176	229	\$6,439
Alaska	3.3%	274	206	143	208	\$9,870
Arizona	5.4%	251	193	120	188	\$6,282
Hawaii	2.8%	240	185	72	166	\$8,100
California	2.8%	238	215	104	175	\$7,552
<b>“High Choice” State Average</b>		<b>278</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>227</b>	

Kansas has consistently scored among the top-performing states. For 2005, Kansas tied for 10th place with a score for all students tested of 309.

Ten states have at least 2.8 percent of total public school enrollment in charter schools. Three of those states (Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida) also have some form of state-funded voucher for students attending private schools. Among the 10 “high choice” states, one (Delaware) tied with Kansas, with all others scoring lower. The average score of the high choice states was 278, which was 31 points LOWER than Kansas.

The Commissioner proposed targeting vouchers to low income and disabled students because these groups are the focus of the constitutional challenge to the Kansas school finance system. However, “high choice” states also fall below Kansas in serving these groups. The combined NAEP scores for Kansas students eligible for free or reduced lunch was 259. Every single “high choice” state had a lower score for low income students. The average of these states was 215, or 44 points LOWER than Kansas.

For students with disabilities, three “high choice” states had a higher NAEP score than Kansas (Delaware, Ohio and Florida by a single point), but the average of all 10 states was 146, or 29 points LOWER than Kansas.

This data also reinforces another fact: higher spending per pupil on public education usually (but not always) makes a positive difference. The “high choice” states with the best overall performance (Delaware, Ohio and Wisconsin) each spent between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per pupil more than Kansas. In other words, the “high choice” states that came closest to the level of student achievement in Kansas spent considerably more money per pupil.

Overall, a higher percent of students in charter schools as opposed to traditional public schools actually seems to correspond to LOWER student performance. As noted above, the average combined NAEP score for the 10 “high choice” states was 278. The average score for the 12 states with charter school enrollment between 1.0 and 2.8 percent was 290. The average score for states with less than 1 percent charter enrollment was 285. The highest average score was for the eleven states with NO charter school enrollment: 295.

Table 2				
Average Test Scores for States Based on Charter School Enrollment				
	Percent of Public School Enrollment in Charter Schools			
	2.8 Percent or more	1.0 to 2.7 Percent	Less than 1 Percent	No charter schools
Number of States	10	12	17	11
Average Combined 2005 NAEP score (All students)	278	290	285	295

These national test results refute the notion that expanding school choice improves public education. It is easy to understand why: public schools must educate every child under a host of state and federal mandates. “Choice” really means allowing certain schools to educate a small number of students under “different rules” – or no rules at all. If “choice” schools are allowed to choose the students they want, public schools are responsible for educating the students “choice” schools do not want. If “choice” schools are required to operate the same as public schools, student results are no different.

Sources:

- National Assessment of Education Progress: “Mathematics 2005” and “Reading 2005”
- National Charter School Research Project; Indicator Reports; Number of Students
- Nation Center for Education Statistics: Current Expenditures for Pupil 2002-03