**Opportunity to Provide Feedback on Common Core State Standards**

In the state of Kansas, two ideas are clear: (1) some of the best practices in education are happening right here in our state, and (2) the best understanding of what works in the classroom comes from current teachers. With those two points in mind, we reach out to you with an opportunity to continue to shape the learning of future students.

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) have released the first official public draft of the K-12 standards as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a process being led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

These draft standards, developed together with teachers, school administrators, and experts, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. **The NGA Center and CCSSO encourage those interested in the standards to review these draft documents and provide feedback by Friday, April 2, 2010, at the following URL:** [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Executive work committees here in Kansas have been providing feedback on these documents for the past two months; now is the time for educators, students, parents, community members, and other individuals to have their voices heard as well.

In their final form, these standards will define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. Now is our opportunity to share with others what works in Kansas and to have a hand in shaping what will work for students across our nation well into the future.

In addition to reviewing these draft documents and providing feedback on this important and substantial work, I would encourage everyone to spend some time with the resources available on the [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) website. From frequently asked questions, to press releases, to explanations of the process, to reports on international benchmarking, the wealth of information available is impressive.

Please join me in sharing in this significant initiative and in shaping the learning and success of students for years to come. With students, parents, and teachers all on the same page and working together toward shared goals, we can ensure that students make progress each year and graduate from school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and the country—just as has always been our focus here in Kansas.