



## Office of the Commissioner

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Dear Parents:

Thank you for supporting your student's participation in the 2015 Kansas Assessment Program. In Kansas, we believe in the need for high quality, meaningful assessments that are aligned to college and career ready academic standards and that challenge students to demonstrate the depths of their knowledge. The assessment your student took earlier this spring did just that.

While assessments should not be viewed as the "end all, be all," they do provide a critical piece of information that helps to inform instruction as well as provide consistent benchmarking to ensure students are prepared for whatever path they choose to pursue after graduation. State assessments provide an opportunity for teachers, parents and students alike to check in on the student's progress.

Your student may have commented that this year's assessment was more difficult than in previous years and they would be right. Kansas adopted more rigorous academic standards in 2010 and this year's assessment was the first time students were asked to demonstrate their mastery of skills such as critical thinking. When you receive your student's scores later this year, it is important to remember they cannot be compared to your student's performance in previous years. Doing so would be like comparing apples to oranges – there simply is no comparison.

Kansas schools are among the best in the nation and we all share in the responsibility of and commitment to ensuring the success of your student.

Thank you for your continued support of Kansas education and for being the most important champion for your student's education success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randy Watson  
Kansas Commissioner of Education