

I've tried to answer as completely as possible but please email me back if I didn't get to the core of your question!

1. Does Kansas teach sex ed to kindergarteners?
 - No, Kansas does not teach sex ed to kindergarteners.
 - There were a couple other comments/suggestions made by our 'answer team' that we thought might be informative for this – most kindergarten teachers do use appropriate terms body parts and functions – especially because for a lot of kids this is the first time they are independently going to the bathroom and sometimes need help with clothing
 - Blue Valley has an OPTIONAL program put on by Safe House (a child abuse facility resource) that features a teddy bear who talks about appropriate and inappropriate touching. It is not graphic but is OPTIONAL with parents given advance notice if they wish their child not to attend.
2. Why does it take a math teacher 52 seconds to explain a simple math problem of $9+6=15$?
 - This is one question we really weren't sure of the context – did a teacher use the time to explain to parents *the way* he/she teaches addition to elementary kids?
 - Is the first time a teacher has to explain the *concept* of addition to lower level elementary/kindergarten students? Because one of the things that is changing in our kid's curriculum is that they need to understand the how/why behind things and not just memorize them.
 - Is this parental frustration (or even student frustration) that a student understood the concept the first time but still has to listen to a repeat of the concept while the rest of the class 'gets it' ? BVPAGE is the group that understands this frustration!
3. Why are so many key figures left out of US History? i.e. Chris Columbus, MLK, and many others?
 - Ok, this is also a context question – I am assuming this is an elementary school level reference?
 - History is taught many different times throughout the K-12 educational years. Initial history and social studies exposure at the elementary school level is very broad and does not go into specific detail or reference every single person of note. As the history lessons/time periods are repeated, there is more detail, more analyzing, and more exposure to events, catalysts, and historical figures.
 - My best example is that in elementary school, there is a general outline of history timelines. Those same historical time periods are broken down into sections that now take 3 years to cover! They are looked at in much more depth AND other classes also add in different aspects of historical events (social studies, writing and reading classes may all look at the same time period from different perspectives). By the time a student is in high school,

they can take an entire class on one period of history or specialized social studies taking an entire semester or year for one particular time period or topic.

4. Why are so many controversial subjects taught as fact: Gay agenda, climate change/global warming, racism against Barack Obama.
 - I'm not sure where this question is coming from – if this is a particular teacher expressing his/her opinions as fact, then a discussion needs to happen with that teacher away from the students. If you have heard this first hand, that is our recommendation on how to follow up. If this information is coming via your child, we would suggest starting a discussion with the teacher saying, “Billy/Susie has told me..... Did he/she misunderstand your comments? or Can you tell me where you think this is coming from?” Sometimes there is a simple misunderstanding.
 - Another suggestion from my answer team was asking how and where this was brought up. If the students are given a topic and asked to research it and provide feedback (agree/disagree, this is opinion from others, provide factual back-up data, take a ‘pro’ or ‘con’ stance) then it could be an appropriate assignment.
 - Also from my answer team – there isn't anything wrong with providing to your child your family's point of view on things they hear at school. On a personal note, at our house when the kids study evolution we talk about that we believe the world has evolved and changed but we believe God is the catalyst that started it all – the two theories are not mutually exclusive.
5. Teachers tell me they have to stick to the CCCs because of limited time and test over material is so rigid.
 - This is something our answer team has also hear a lot over the past 2 years. But – the curriculum was new – the teachers were settling in as to what had to be taught within a specific time frame. I personally think the teachers have a better handle on subject matter and time frames than they previously did. However, this sounds like it goes back to the differentiation that is needed in general ed classrooms for many gifted students. Even if the materials were new to the teachers, some of ‘our’ kids still need more! There is nothing wrong with asking for more (more depth, more application, more comparisons, etc.).
6. Why were KS state assessments not released last year? Can BVPAGE make a formal request for these past scores?
 - No one in the state got test results last year. KSDE did not feel they would give a valid representation of what students or schools had done. I don't think it will do any good for BVPAGE to request☺.