Missouri Coalition Against Common Core,

I have spoken with the Department of Ed and am able to confirm the impacts of dropping Common Core in Missouri. The bottom line is that the state would not lose any federal money (although there is the possibility of constraints on spending the money) and would not be forced to pay back any grants since they did not receive any directly.

1)      With respect to the NCLB flexibility waiver, the state would not necessarily lose its waiver if it put in place new standards that meet one of two criteria: 1) are commonly adopted by a majority of states (i.e. only includes CCSS); or 2) are approved by the state’s network of higher education (this is what Virginia did rather than adopt CCSS). The state would have to amend its waiver application to include new standards that are approved by the higher Ed network and ensure that they are in place, with aligned assessments, by the 2014 – 2015 school year. Even if the state were to lose its waiver it would not lose its money. It would simply revert to the rigid spending guidelines under NCLB.

2)      As far as Race to the Top money goes, the representative at the Department could not find any RttT money that Missouri received directly. Thus, it would not be required to return money since it did not receive it. The state is part of one of the testing consortiums that accepted RttT assessment funds but this should not require repayment since the grants were made to these institutions, not the state. A number of other states have pulled out of the testing consortiums and I can’t find evidence of them having pay anything back.

I hope this clarifies everything and can help with the hearings. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

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