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### Kan. Senate passes expanded school funding plan

#### Senate signs bill to expand Common Core

By JENNIFER HANSEN

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Senate on Thursday passed a bill that would expand the state's Common Core standards to include mathematics and science, as well as social studies and physical education. The bill also would require schools to use the standards to develop curriculum and instruction.

The bill, which would amend the state's Education Code, was passed by a 27-14 vote. It would require the state board of education to develop and adopt standards for mathematics and science by July 2015. The board also would be required to develop standards for social studies and physical education by July 2016.

The bill also would require schools to use the standards to develop curriculum and instruction. The board of education would be required to report to the legislature on the progress of the standards development process.

The bill is part of a larger effort to reform the state's education system. The legislature has passed several other bills related to education in recent months, including a bill that would increase funding for schools and a bill that would reform the state's teacher certification process.

### Water rates in Salina aimed at keeping precious commodity

By JENNIFER HANSEN

SALINA, Kan. (AP) — Salina's water utility is raising rates to help pay for a new water treatment plant and to encourage conservation. The city council approved the rates on Thursday.

The new rates will be in effect starting in July. The utility is spending about \$10 million on the new plant, which will be completed in 2015. The plant will increase the city's capacity to treat water from 10 million gallons per day to 15 million gallons per day.

The utility also is encouraging conservation. The new rates include a tiered structure that charges more for water used in excess of a certain amount. The utility also is offering rebates for water-saving devices.