

## SUMMARY OF STATE BOARD CHANGES TO KANSAS SCIENCE STANDARDS

(adopted by the Board on November 8, 2005)

### The Changes:

1. Add to the mission statement a goal that science education should seek to “*inform.*”
2. Substitute a common and rigorously objective definition of science for an arcane definition driven by a naturalistic preconception.<sup>1</sup>
3. Exclude intelligent design from the standards, without prohibiting it.
4. Make it clear that evolution is a theory and not a fact.
5. Add standards that would inform students:
  - a. About “*methods for testing hypotheses about the cause of a remote past event (historical hypothesis) that cannot be confirmed by experiment and/or direct observation.*”
  - b. About the scientific controversy over the origin of life - Chemical Evolution.
  - c. About the mechanisms of evolution:

That the theory “*postulates an unguided natural process that has no discernable direction or goal.*”

That “*new heritable traits may result from new combinations of genes and from random mutations or changes in the reproductive cells. Except in very rare cases, mutations that may be inherited are neutral, deleterious or fatal.*”

That “*the sequence of the nucleotide bases within genes is not dictated by any known chemical or physical law.*”
  - d. About the scientific controversy regarding common ancestry that is based on conflicting data relating to (a) molecular phylogenies, (b) the fossil record and (c) embryology.
  - e. About the controversy over whether microevolution can be extrapolated to explain macroevolutionary changes like new body plans and systems that appear irreducibly complex.
  - f. That scientific knowledge can be used for both good and evil.

---

<sup>1</sup> The new definition is: “*Science is a systematic method of continuing investigation that uses observations, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, logical argument and theory building, to lead to more adequate explanations of natural phenomena.*”