



## Division of Learning Services

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Date: February 23, 2011  
To: School Leaders  
FROM: Brad Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the electronic newsletter produced by the Division of Learning Services. This newsletter will not replace what is sent out via KSDE listservs; however, it is intended to provide you with an organized collection of the latest updates regarding programs, initiatives, etc. within the Division of Learning Services.

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### **Common Core Standards Transition Timeline**

Staff of the Kansas State Department of Education, with advice and guidance from the field, have developed a timeline for the transition to the Common Core Standards. This document is a working document for KSDE but should also provide a roadmap to the field as to how we envision the transition. Following is the link to the timeline: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4605>. You can also find on the website, under English Language Arts common Core Resources, a side-by-side comparison of the Common Core Anchor Standards with the Kansas Reading Standards. If you have questions regarding the timeline, please contact: Jeannette Nobo, [jnobo@ksde.org](mailto:jnobo@ksde.org), (785) 296-2078.

### **Is Your District Spending Its ARRA Funds?**

According to the last quarterly reports, numerous districts still have their American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Title I and Title IID dollars to spend. Seventy-one districts have drawn down only 50% or less of their Title I ARRA funds. Seventy-nine districts have spent all their funds. **Remember for those districts that have approved carryover funds, all ARRA Title I and Title IID funds must be expended and all services ended by September 30, 2011.** Funds may only be used for allowable Title I and Title IID activities as approved in the ARRA LCP Application and ARRA LCP Revision and Carryover Application.

Districts should be spending their ARRA Title I and Title IID funds and any regular Title I and Title IID funds carried over from last year first. These are the oldest allocations. Remember districts can request permission to carry over some of the regular 2010-2011 Title I and Title IID allocations into next year. Please contact the LCP Consultant assigned to your district if there are questions.

### **Letter to Secretary Duncan**

The letter to Secretary Duncan requesting that Kansas be allowed to keep the AYP targets for reading and math accountability at the 2009-2010 levels was submitted last week. State Board Chairman Dave Dennis stated in the letter that Kansas has demonstrated continued commitment to education reforms, specifically mentioning our adoption of the Common Core Standards and our participation in the SMARTER/Balanced Consortium to implement higher standards and plan for the next generation of assessments. Additionally, Kansas has a robust longitudinal database that will allow us to move to a growth model for accountability. A response to the request is expected by May. A copy of the letter to Secretary Duncan can be found at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4608>.

### **Testing Window Extension to May 2**

Due to the inordinate amount of snow days for many schools across Kansas, KSDE announced earlier this week that the testing window for the math and reading assessments has been extended to May 2. The May 2 date was agreed to in a conference call held with staff from the assessment and Title teams of KSDE and members of the Executive Council of the Kansas Association of School Administrators (KASA). The extension will give those schools needing additional time to prepare students the opportunity to do so. The original closing date was April 13.

- The opening of the testing window remains the same – February 16.
- The KELPA testing window has been extended to May 6. Answer sheets for the KELPA are now due May 20.
- The alternative assessment window has been extended to April 20. All scores for the alternate assessment must be entered by May 2.
- There is no change in the science assessment window – it closes May 6 for grades 3-8 and grade 11.

The extension of the test window will not allow for any make up or extension beyond May 2.

If you have any questions, please call: (785) 296-2303.

### **Board Action on Bullying**

Communication to schools and districts went out last week informing all of the actions taken by the State Board earlier in the week on anti-bullying. Both the statement and the proposed resolution can be found on the Board's webpage by scrolling along the right-hand side to the topic "Board Action on Bullying" at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4607>. The chairman of the Senate Education Committee has agreed to introduce the resolution.

### **MTSS Leadership Essentials**

**MTSS Leadership Essentials** is the starting point for building and district administrators prior to the MTSS training. During this training, administrators will review the general MTSS process and identify the tasks and leadership competencies necessary to facilitate a successful MTSS. Critical requisites for MTSS will be identified and discussed. Administrators will be prepared to ready their buildings and districts for a MTSS in which data-based decision making and intentional redesign of instructional practices are paramount. For further information, please visit the MTSS website: [www.kansasmtss.org](http://www.kansasmtss.org).

### Nominate Exemplary Teachers for 2012 Kansas Teacher of the Year

School districts are encouraged to nominate one elementary and one secondary classroom teacher for 2012 Kansas Teacher of the Year. **The 2012 Kansas Teacher of the Year Nomination Form is available on the KSDE website at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2259>.** Please provide the nomination form to your district's nominee(s) as soon as possible so they have adequate time to complete the nomination. All nominations for 2012 Kansas Teacher of the Year must be **postmarked and mailed** to the Kansas State Department of Education by **April 30, 2011**.

For more information about this program, please contact the Kansas State Department of Education by e-mail to [sbukovatz@ksde.org](mailto:sbukovatz@ksde.org), or phone at (785) 296-2551.

### 2010-2011 World Language Enrollment Survey

One third done, two thirds to go! As of last Friday, 100 schools/districts have completed the 2010-2011 World Language Enrollment Survey.

The purpose of the survey is to determine **how many** students are currently learning **which languages** in Kansas schools. It will be useful information for your district, your state, and the nation. The results will be compiled into a report, which will be sent to all participants. In order to have 100% participation, the survey is designed to take very little time to answer. Please provide your school/district's information by Monday, February 28. Use this link: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dExlYWxnRVpwMkt3T2ZwSXBLNmYyQkE6MQ>

We need complete and accurate data from all districts and private schools. Thanks for your help. For more information, please contact: Phyllis Farrar, [pfarrar@ksde.org](mailto:pfarrar@ksde.org), (785) 296-1891.

### Title Programs and Services', "The Communicator"

Don't forget to check out the latest issue of "The Communicator", Title Programs and Services monthly e-newsletter. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to provide information regarding the implementation of No Child Left Behind in Kansas, Local Consolidated Programs, Service Learning, AmeriCorps and upcoming deadlines and events. The latest issue, as well as past issues, can be accessed at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=121>.

### KIDS Data

Don't forget the latest information regarding the KIDS program, including the 2011-2012 KIDS Feedback Survey, the KIDS MILT Collection, DQC Program and KIDS FAQ of the week can be accessed at: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.ksde.org/kids>.

### Understanding the New Graduation Rate Calculation

The U.S. Department of Education has mandated that all states use a four-year adjusted cohort rate calculation for the graduates of 2010. In order to familiarize school staff with the new calculation, several webinars have been planned this month. The first three webinars are intended for anyone who wants additional information on the new graduation rate calculation. The latter two webinars are specifically for KIDS Contacts.

By participating in the Live Meeting, you can learn:

- The new graduation rate formula
- Who is included in the cohort
- How each exit code counts toward the graduation rate
- Which exit codes count as transfers out
- What are the graduation goal and targets

- What is an extended-year cohort rate

Please make plans to attend one of the Live Meetings below!

### **Live Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, February 22, 2011	10:00-11:00am, CST
Wednesday, February 23, 2011	1:00-2:00pm, CST
Thursday, February 24, 2011	10:00-11:00am, CST (specifically for KIDS Contacts)
Monday, February 28, 2011	1:00-2:00pm, CST (specifically for KIDS Contacts)

### **Instructions to Access Microsoft Live Meeting**

#### **Prior to Joining the Live Meetings**

To use computer audio, you need speakers and microphone, a headset OR if you are not able to access audio through your computer you will need access to a telephone (land line.)

#### **First Time Users:**

To save time before the meeting, check your system to make sure it is ready to use Microsoft Office Live Meeting. Please note that if you are new to Microsoft Office Live Meeting and you have downloaded it to your computer. You will still be required to go into Microsoft Office Live Meeting and create a user's account for yourself.

#### **Tuesday, February 22, 2011 ~ 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM CST**

Attendee

URL: [https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=BNPSR6&role=attend&pw=d%2B\\*2c%7B3XQ](https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=BNPSR6&role=attend&pw=d%2B*2c%7B3XQ)

Meeting ID: BNPSR6

Attendee Entry Code: d+\*2c{3XQ

#### **Wednesday, February 23, 2011 ~ 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM CST**

Attendee

URL: [https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=JS3Z64&role=attend&pw=d%2B\\*2c%7B3XQ](https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=JS3Z64&role=attend&pw=d%2B*2c%7B3XQ)

Meeting ID: JS3Z64

Attendee Entry Code: d+\*2c{3XQ

#### **Thursday, February 24, 2011 ~ 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM CST**

Attendee

URL: [https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=HDN33D&role=attend&pw=d%2B\\*2c%7B3XQ](https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=HDN33D&role=attend&pw=d%2B*2c%7B3XQ)

Meeting ID: HDN33D

Attendee Entry Code: d+\*2c{3XQ

#### **Monday, February 28, 2011 ~ 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM CST**

Attendee

URL: [https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=Q94H4N&role=attend&pw=d%2B\\*2c%7B3XQ](https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join?id=Q94H4N&role=attend&pw=d%2B*2c%7B3XQ)

Meeting ID: Q94H4N

Attendee Entry Code: d+\*2c{3XQ

#### **Audio Connection for LiveMeeting**

If you are unable to connect to the audio for this LiveMeeting through your computer, you will access to a telephone (land line telephone PLEASE NO CELL Phones.)

Audio conferencing provider:

Toll free: +1 (866) 620-7326

Participant code: 7852963069

**Additional Audio Info: For Attendees—Troubleshooting**

Unable to join the meeting? Follow these steps:

1. Copy this address and paste it into your web browser:  
<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka/join>
2. Copy and paste the required information:  
Location: <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ksdetopeka>

If you still cannot enter the meeting, [contact support](#): Margaret Krogmann, 785-296-5188 or email: [mkrogmann@ksde.org](mailto:mkrogmann@ksde.org) For questions about graduation calculations, contact: Jessica Noble at 785-296-3163 or [jnoble@ksde.org](mailto:jnoble@ksde.org).