KANSAS EDUCATION SHINES

March, 2009

Focus on students...

- Kansas students continue to top the national average composite score for reading and mathematics on the ACT assessment. In 2008, the ACT national average composite score was 21.1, down from 21.2 the previous year. Still, Kansas students continued to perform better with an average composite score of 22.0. With 74% of all graduating seniors in Kansas taking the ACT, Kansas ranks in the top 20% in participation. Seven Kansas students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. *ACT, Inc.*
- Kansas students participating in the SAT assessment posted a mean score of 580 on critical reading, compared to the national average of 502. In mathematics, the mean score for Kansas students was 589, compared to the national mean score of 515. In 2006, the SAT exam included a writing component for the first time. Kansas students posted a mean score of 564 in this category, far exceeding the national mean writing score of 494. Three Kansas students scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT. *The College Board*.
- More Kansas students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2008, showing a 13% increase from last year. Additionally, 9.4% more exams received grades of 3 or higher on a 5 point scale, which potentially qualified students for credit, advanced placement, or both, at colleges and universities worldwide. Yuzhou Li of Shawnee Mission East High and Lichy Han of Blue Valley West received AP State Scholar Awards for their outstanding performance on the Advanced Placement Program (APO) Examinations. *The College Board*.
- In Kansas, 86.8% of the 2006-07 graduating seniors went on to postsecondary education. *KSDE, August 2008*.
- On the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Kansas 4th graders ranked second in the nation on the mathematics assessment, with 89% of the students tested scoring basic or above. Kansas 8th graders also ranked second in the nation in mathematics, with 82% of students tested scoring basic or above. In reading, Kansas 4th graders ranked sixth in the nation, with 72% of students tested scoring basic or above; and 8th graders ranked sixth in the nation with 81% of students tested scoring at basic or above.

  NAEP, http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/
- Matthew Heck of Wichita and Katie Vahle of Mission Hills were awarded 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community awards for their extraordinary volunteer work. Four other Kansas students were named Distinguished Finalists.

Focus on schools...

- Attendance in Kansas public schools remains high, with an average daily attendance rate of 95%. *www.ksde.org/reportcard*
- Graduation rates in Kansas are a reported 89.4% of Kansas students graduating, according to NCLB data. *ACT, Inc*.
- Ninety percent of all Kansas public schools made AYP in the 2007-08 school year, with 94% of Title 1 schools making AYP. Ninety-two percent of districts made AYP. Ninety-four percent of Kansas's Title 1 districts made AYP under the NCLB legislation definition. *www.ksde.org/reportcard*
- Five Kansas schools received the 2008 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award, joining 24 other Kansas schools which have been named since 2003. They are as follows: Beeson Elementary School, USD 443 Dodge City; Blue Valley North High School, USD 229 Blue Valley; Ellsworth Elementary School, USD 327 Ellsworth; Lincoln Elementary School, USD 298 Lincoln; and Syracuse High School, USD 494 Syracuse. They were honored in October in Washington DC. *http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html*
- Five Kansas schools were nominated for the 2009 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award. Recipients will be named in September 2009.
- Forty-four Kansas elementary schools, twelve middle/junior high schools, and eighteen high schools were part of the third annual Governor's Achievement Awards, honoring the top performing schools in the state. *http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=95*
- One hundred eleven Certificates of Merit were presented to 51 Kansas public school districts as part of the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force Challenge Awards. *http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=95*
- Kansas recognized schools for achieving the Standard of Excellence on the 2007-2008 state assessments. In total, 2,755 certificates in mathematics and 3,461 certificates in reading were awarded.

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Focus on teachers and administrators...

- In the 2007-08 school year, 92.6% of Kansas teachers were fully licensed in their assigned subject area, serving the children of Kansas, and 87.5% were highly qualified according to the No Child Left Behind legislation. Highly qualified teachers are fully licensed and have demonstrated depth of content in the area to which they are assigned. *KSDE, Teacher Education & Licensure Team, Jan. 2008.*
- Cynthia Couchman, a mathematics teacher at Buhler High School, USD 313 Buhler is the 2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year.
- In 2008, 297 Kansas educators were certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Twenty-seven new teachers received certification in 2008.
- Dr. John Heim, Superintendent of Emporia USD 253, was named the 2009 Superintendent of the Year by the Kansas Association of School Administrators.
- Mr. Ron Vinduska, Principal at Seaman High School, Seaman USD 345, was named the 2008 MetLife Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.
- Mr. James Krone, Principal at Atchison Middle School, Atchison USD 409, was named the 2008 Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Middle School Administrators.
- Mrs. Kim Christner, Principal at Garfield Elementary School, Augusta USD 402, was named the 2008 Kansas Distinguished Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals.
- Carrie Newdigger, science teacher at Macksville High School, Macksville USD 351, and Steven Obenhaus, mathematics teacher at Olathe North High School, Olathe USD 233 were named Presidential Awards National Finalists.
- Thirty-two beginning educators from around the state were named 2009 Kansas Horizon Award recipients. *http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=95*
- Vanessa Martinez, Assistant Principal at Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet School, Wichita USD 259, was named the 2008 Milken Family Foundation National Educator.