



The Communicator

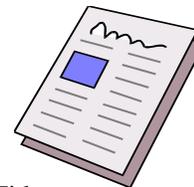
Title Programs & Services E-Newsletter

Issue 8

March, 2009

Purpose of “The Communicator”

The Communicator is a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Title Programs and Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education. 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. Schools and districts will be notified of the e-newsletter around the first of the month and it will be posted on the Title Programs and Services website.



More on Title IIA Teacher Quality

Thank you for all work on Title IIA and your patience in the process as we look Title IIA. I know it has been time consuming to go back and look at your SAR reports, but it has been very beneficial. We started with 13 districts in the state of Kansas being 100% Highly Qualified. Now, after districts have gone back to look at their 07-08 SAR reports and have touch based with our office as to changes, we are over 50 districts, with a few more added each day!

Some of the questions that have been asked are:

When and how do we do the improvement plan?

The improvement plan for Tier 2 districts will be integrated into the Local Consolidated Plan.

It will be located on the IIA page.

I'm on Tier 3? When is all my paperwork (corrective action plan, needs assessment, and letter of agreement) due?

No later than May 15th.

What do I do between now and when the LCP goes live in the summer?

Most districts have cleaned up their 07-08 SAR report. Start to look at your teachers for 08-09 who are not highly qualified. Be proactive and work to get them highly qualified. A LIVE Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th and 10 a.m. It will be a Q&A session as well as a time to look at the Improvement and Corrective Action Process for Title IIA.

When will my Title IIA funding be affected?

Unless you do not make AYP and Title IIA in conjunction for consecutive years, IIA funding is not affected. BUT, please remember, if you are in Tier 2 OR Tier 3 for Title IIA, 10% of your IIA budget must be set aside for professional development to help teachers become highly qualified. You can not add any new class size reduction teachers or new paraprofessionals.

Now what?

Once 08-09 data is finalized, a revised letter will be sent to your district with the updated numbers from 07-08 and 08-09 explaining next steps.

Thank you again for your patience and hard work!

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Stimulus Information

We have had many questions about the stimulus package and how it will impact not only Title I Schools but other areas. Included in the newsletter is a visual about how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be dispersed to the states. There are two parts of the stimulus package: Stabilization Funds and Increases to Formula Grants. We think this visual, prepared by the National Title I Association, helps to explain how the money will flow from the federal government to the state government and then to the local school districts. There is also information available on the U.S. Department of Education website. There are tentative allocations on the website, however, these are not final by any means and we are waiting for the guidance from them on how the money can be spent. As soon as this is available, you can be expecting more direction from Kansas State Department of Education and the Title Programs and Services Team.

National Title I Distinguished Schools



Each year at the National Title I Conference, two schools from each state are recognized for improving student achievement. The first category recognized is *Exceptional Student Performance for Two or More Consecutive Years*. This year Garfield Elementary School in Parsons was recognized. The principal is Lori A. Ray.

Garfield Elementary is located in Parsons, Kansas in the southeast corner of the state. Garfield is one of three elementary schools in Parsons District Schools USD 503. Nestled between the local Community College and park while also close to downtown businesses, our students have many opportunities and easy access for community and neighborhood involvement. Garfield Elementary has almost 200 students enrolled in Kindergarten through Fifth grades.

The student population is 63 percent Caucasian, 23 percent Multi-Ethnic and 14 percent African American. Over 60% of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The successes that our students have achieved have come through the hard work and dedication of both students and staff. It has required teamwork and very specific and explicit planning and instruction.

The planning and explicit instruction began in earnest when our district was awarded a Reading First Grant 5 years ago. Reading First funding since 2004-2005 has afforded our staff considerable professional development opportunities. The professional development has increased teachers' knowledge base and strengthened our reading program, in turn strengthening all of our instructional programs. Opportunities have included training for all staff from nationally renowned experts and many different book studies. These studies have helped teachers better understand how to support students by teaching researched based strategies that highly effective students and schools use. Teachers have also gained knowledge from regional conferences and workshops, as well as district and building level collaboration meetings. Kudos to Garfield Elementary School for exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years!

The second category recognized was *Closing the Achievement Gap between Student Groups*. Holcomb Elementary was awarded this prestigious honor. Principal is Phil Keidel.

Holcomb Elementary is a 4th and 5th grade campus of 140 students located in Holcomb, Kansas. Holcomb is in Finney County which is located in the southwest corner of Kansas. The area is one with a large agricultural interest comprised of row crop farming and a large cattle feeding industry. The beef packing industry and a coal fired power plant are the two largest employers of the area.

Holcomb Elementary has a diverse student population composed of 33% Hispanics and 64 % Caucasian and 3% African American with a free and reduced lunch population of 52%. With this being said, Holcomb's mission is to provide an opportunity for all students to acquire the skills necessary to be productive and successful.

Holcomb's curriculum and instruction is closely aligned with Kansas standards and monitored through data collected as student assessments and benchmarks. In our effort to meet the needs of all learners while sustaining or increasing adequate yearly progress, Holcomb Elementary has implemented a wide array of programs and instructional strategies that has produced numerous standards of excellence designations from the state of Kansas in reading, math, and writing.

The elementary has a technology rich environment that allows teachers and students to utilize computers, smart boards, and safe websites to enhance the delivery of instruction to the students. Title I has allowed us to support and motivate student to practice their literacy and problem solving skills in a format that lends itself to workplace skill development. Hats off to Holcomb Elementary for closing the achievement gap between student groups!

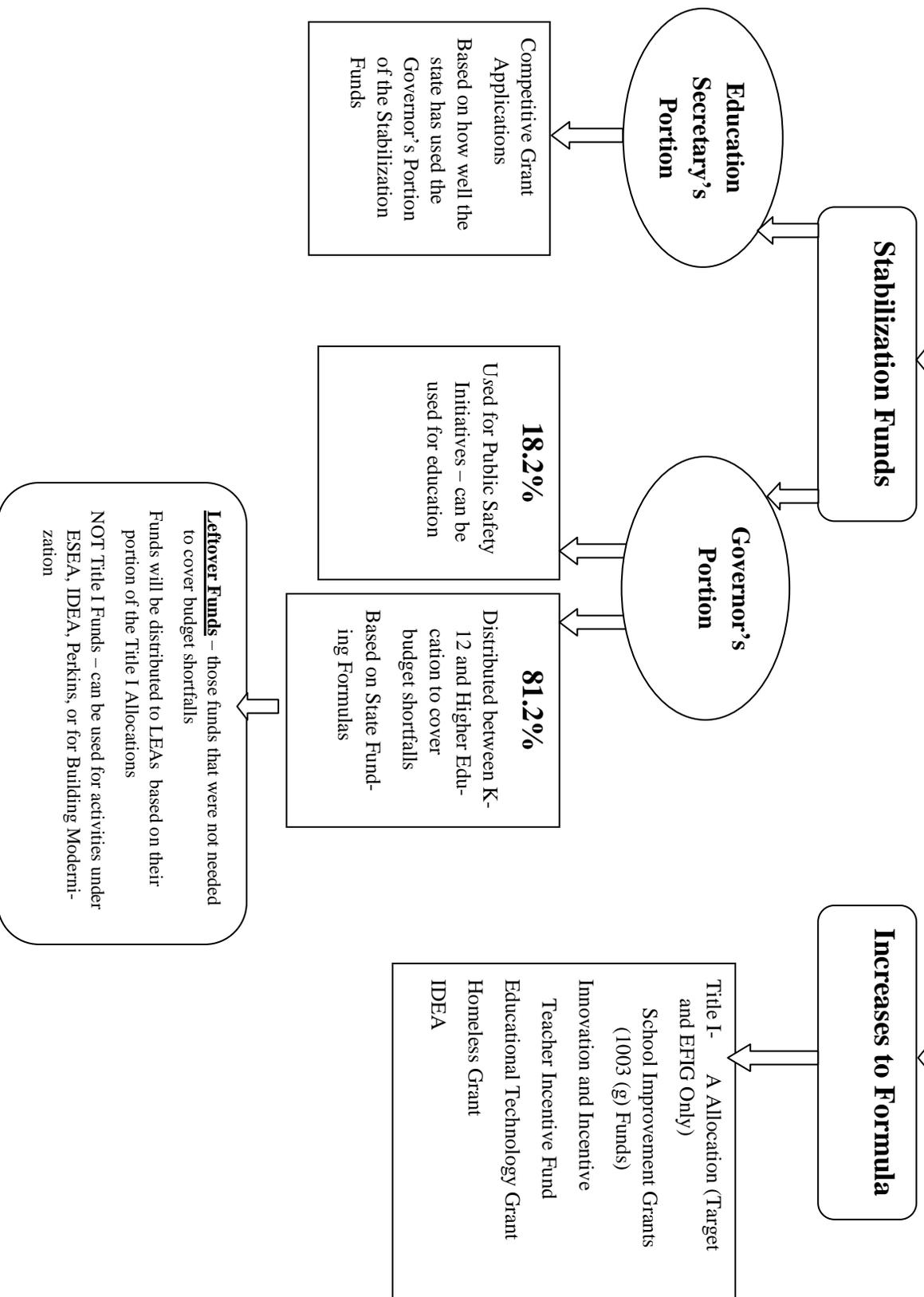
Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Information

Title I Supplemental Educational Services (SES) are additional academic instruction designed to increase the academic achievement of students from low-income families attending Title I schools in their second year of school improvement, in corrective action, or in restructuring. These services may include academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation and other educational interventions, provided that such approaches are consistent with the content and instruction used by the district and are aligned with the State's academic content and student academic achievement standards. SES is in addition to instruction provided during the regular school day. SES must be high-quality, research-based, and specifically designed to increase the academic achievement of eligible students.

Title I SES Provider Applications for 2009-2010 are available to download on March 3, 2009 at www.ksde.org. Potential SES Providers who are eligible to apply may include: public schools (including charter schools) and districts (that have not been identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring), private schools (non-profit or for-profit), institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, business groups, and individuals. SES Applications must arrive by mail to the KSDE office by May 1, 2009. If you have questions concerning the SES application or process, contact LaNetra Guess at 785-296-8965 or Lguess@ksde.org.



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



Developed by the National Title I Association, an Association of National Title I Directors

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Judi Miller Installed as President-Elect at National Title I Meeting.

Judi Miller, Assistant Director of the Title Program and Services Team, was installed as President-Elect at the National Title I State Directors Meeting in San Antonio, TX on February 18, 2009. Judi will preside over next year's conference in Washington, DC in January, 2010 and will guide the national organization of Title I Directors. This is a great honor for Judi and also for the Kansas State Department of Education. Congratulations, Judi!



Simplified Summer Food Now Available Nationwide



The recently expanded Simplified Summer Food Program provided an opportunity to increase the number of children receiving nutritious food during the summer months.

Summer programs that operate in low-income areas or serve primarily low-income children can receive federal funds to provide snacks and meals through the new program, previously only available in select states.

The Simplified Summer Food Program is now available in all states and removes complicated accounting rules that were previously required through the traditional Summer Food Program. This dramatically cuts paperwork and provides sponsors with the full federal reimbursement for each meal they serve.

Schools, local government agencies (such as the parks and recreation departments) and private nonprofits (such as YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs) can participate in the Simplified Summer Food Program. Sites can also be located at low-income housing complexes, parks, churches and other places where children congregate during the summer. To qualify, a site must either be located in a low-income area (where 50 percent or more of the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals), or serve primarily low-income children (at least half of the children enrolled in the program are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals).

To participate, contact your state child nutrition agency. State agency contact information is available at: www.frac.org/summer.

Homeless Education

We have received many questions over the past couple years asking for guidance on how to determine the homeless set aside that is required on the Title I budget. Also this past fall, the USED found that we were not in compliance on how Title I, homeless set asides were being determined. Beginning next year on the LCP application, districts must state how the local homeless liaison & Title I director determined the set aside amount. The minimum set aside remains the same (\$500 for districts under 1000 students and \$1500 for districts with 1000 or more students). Some possibilities are listed below.

- The number of homeless students was multiplied by the Title I, Part A per pupil allocation
- 0.5% or a larger percentage of our Title I, Part A allocation was reserved
- An amount of funds greater than or equal to the amount of our McKinney-Vento subgrant was reserved
- The needs of our homeless students were identified and funded appropriately

Questions relating to homeless students may be directed to Tate Toedman at toedman@ksde.org or 785-296-6714.

What Happens in San Antonio Doesn't Stay In San Antonio!

The National Title I Conference was held in San Antonio in February and we wanted to highlight several sessions. Topics were arranged around "Instructional Support for All Students", Shared Leadership for School Improvement", and "No Child Left Behind". There was also a lot of conversation around the stimulus package (see other article). Our staff is highlighting and sharing briefly about six sessions at the conference to give you a feel for the conference.

Innovation, Leadership and Rules: Dilemmas Faced in Education was the topic of the presentation from Dr. Raymond J. McNulty from the International Center for Leadership in Education. He emphasized the need for change in public education to be competitive with the two fastest growing forms of education: charter schools and home schools. He shared research that suggested by 2015 the majority of high school classes may be taught on-line. His answer was stressing relationships first with students but to also make learning relevant and rigorous. Project based learning around higher order thinking skills is one option to engage students in learning to get better results.

Leading Underachieving Children of Poverty to Success was a presentation led by Dr. William Parrett and Dr. Robert Barr both from the Center for School Improvement & Policy Studies (Boise State University). This session focused on increasing student achievement of students in poverty. There were four points they stated what educators should do: teach students to read, re-teach/accelerate, extend learning opportunities, and ensure a personal connection with the students. The presenters also shared that staff should be providing the following for students: high expectations, early intervention, needs based 'catch-up' plans, intensive reading/math instruction, extra instructional time, relevant rigorous well targeted curriculum, parent education and home support, nutrition, summer programs, and targeted instruction. One quote summed it up, "We can't fix the poverty that surrounds our kids...but we can get them the skills they need to achieve and succeed in school...every one of them!"

Mission Possible: Mentoring as Collaboration to Improve Student Achievement, Teacher Retention, and Teaching & Learning Dr. Mary Ann Blank and Dr. Cheryl Kershaw presented on a systemic mentoring program in Tennessee. The model described was developed in Tennessee in 1999 through a Title II grant. It was focused on large urban districts with support from local business, community, and education leaders. Today, each school involved has taken ownership for its implementation, assessment, and expansion. Support for the teachers is now systemic. The presenters shared the components of their program from its evolution. As participants, we had the chance to talk to others about their mentoring programs, its strengths and weaknesses. It is interesting how varied the programs are across the country. Nonetheless, they should attract and retain teachers, help develop teacher leaders, create energized learning communities, and cultivate shared ownership for new teacher success - all which leads to increased student achievement!

Thriving Title I Schools

At the National Title I Conference, Dr. Joseph Johnson, Executive Director with the National Center for Urban School Transformation, shared how 23 Title I award-winning schools that are exceeding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and showing evidence of high achievement differ from many Title I schools trapped in school improvement, amassing greater sanctions each year. The award-winning schools "thrive in a culture of continuous improvement!" In comparing the schools, Dr. Johnson indicated that the thriving schools focus on changing students lives while the trapped schools focus on meeting state and federal criteria and getting to the bar. Thriving schools use fresh data so teachers will know if students are learning; trapped schools have old data that is often difficult to understand or use. Thriving schools promote deep mastery of key standards and integrate learning across a broad curriculum. Trapped schools, on the other hand, try to cover the standards and focus almost exclusively on what is tested. In addition, thriving schools use professional development that leads to changes in classroom instruction and they engage teachers in making a difference for students. Dr. Johnson also reported that thriving schools engage students by making learning relevant, interesting and fun and they find ways to engage parents in support of their children's education.

Distinguished School Panel: English

Language Learners: Dr. Adnan Aabed, Principal of Oakland International Academy High School in Detroit, MI and Sherrilynn Rawson, Principal of Nellie Muir Elementary school in Woodburn, OR were panelists for a discussion on the approaches they used to ensure that the English language learners in their school were succeeding academically. The two schools had different populations of English language learners (Arabic speakers and Spanish speakers) and different enrollment sizes (one with 161 students and the other much larger). What they shared was a variety of English to Speakers of Other Language programs and instructional techniques. Both said that they used the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) model, differentiated instruction, cooperative learning, dynamic direct instruction and hands-on activities to help their students succeed in the classroom. Both also stressed the importance of teaching academic vocabulary right away. In addition, both involved parents in a language they were comfortable with and both schools enjoyed the students they served and the success they had.

**SPONSORED BY THE GREENBUSH
ESOL DEPARTMENT
PRESENTER: DR. CATHERINE COLLIER**



JUNE 11-12, 2009

**ADAPTING INSTRUCTION
FOR AT-RISK DIVERSE LEARNERS**

This workshop synthesizes information about adapting instruction including affective, instructional and cognitive learning strategies for culturally and linguistically diverse students at-risk for learning and behavior problems.

Cost: \$100

Free to Greenbush Title III & Migrant Members

Location: Forbes Field Topeka

*Online Streaming Available! Contact us for more information.

*College Credit Available

Register: www.greenbush.org. Go to Workshops. Sign in.

Email or call Nicole Foster, nicole.foster@greenbush.org (620) 724-6281,

or Jennifer Bingham, Jennifer.bingham@greenbush.org (620) 202-1989.



Professional Development Opportunities

This two-day workshop by McREL on “**Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners**” provides ideas and techniques for comprehensible instruction to ELLs in a regular classroom setting. Regular classroom teachers or administrators who have ELLs, would benefit a great deal from this workshop as would ESL teachers wanting some refreshing tips on how to serve this population.

The workshop will be held in **Garden City** at the AmericInn, 3020 E Kansas Ave, on **March 10-11, 2009**. Rooms have been set aside at the hotel for this workshop; participants should call and make reservations on their own.

Registration is free; workbooks and lunch will be provided.

This is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of some terrific professional development.

Please contact Judi Kutzke at jkutzke@ksde.org with questions about registration or hotel accommodations, or Melanie Manares mmanares@ksde.org with questions about the workshop content.

Kansas Migrant & ELL Academy

The Kansas Migrant & ELL academy is a professional development opportunity for teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators in need of information on how to effectively instruct the migrant and English language learning students in their district. This Academy is divided into four cohorts of educators: middle school, high school, elementary school, and a special cohort for paraprofessionals. Beginning with middle school teachers in the summer of 2009, the Migrant & ELL Academy will also provide cohorts of educators with pre and post face-to-face institutes. In between institutes, educators participate in online training.

How Do I Register?

Register online at www.KMEAcademy.org

Dates and Locations:

June 11-12, 2009
Wheat Lands Hotel &
Conference Center
Garden City, KS

July 8-9, 2009
Capital Plaza Hotel
Topeka, KS

Both dates and locations are hosted by Emporia State University and The University of Kansas.



KATESOL/BE 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FROM THE LANGUAGE OF

CRITIQUE

TO THE LANGUAGE OF

Possibility

Advocating for ELL's Quality Education



EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

April 23-24, 2009

Thursday, April 23
7:00 – 9:00 PM

Friday, April 24
8:00 AM – 3:45 PM

Emporia State University
Memorial Union

Registration

\$85 through April 17

\$125 after April 17

\$35 for Students

(includes membership fee)



Featuring keynote speaker

Margo Gottlieb

"When Is Content not Content? When It Is Masked by Language!"

Margo Gottlieb, Ph.D., is Lead Developer for World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment, a multi-state consortium devoted to improving teaching and learning for English language learners, and Director of Assessment and Evaluation for the Illinois Resource Center. She is a nationally recognized specialist in the design of assessments for English language learners in pre-K-12 settings, the evaluation of language educational programs, and the development of English language proficiency standards.

Register online at www.emporia.edu/jones or call 1-877-378-5433

DUE DATES

- Title IIA corrective action plan, needs assessment and letter of agreement due May 15th
- SES Provider Applications due May 1st
- Title III Improvement Plans due April 1st
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Applications are due April 30th

For questions regarding "The Communicator" E-Newsletter, contact:

Dr. Julie Ford, 785-368-7274, jford@ksde.org

(or)

Dee Lewis, 785-296-3069, dlewis@ksde.org

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=121>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 5-6

2009 Afterschool Conference "Connections for Success", Ramada Inn, Topeka

March 10-11

Classroom Instruction that Works with ELL Workshop, AmericInn, Garden City

March 11

LIVE Meeting on Improvement and Corrective Action Process for Title IIA

March 23-26

PDK Curriculum Assessment and Design and Delivery, Ramada Inn, Topeka

April 21-22

Homeless Liaison Trainings and Homeless Grant Informational Meetings, Haysville and Topeka

April 23-24

KATESOL/BE 2009 Annual Conference, Emporia State University Memorial Union, Emporia

April 29-May 1

KSDE Annual Conference "21st Century Express: All Aboard!", Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Center, Wichita

June 9-11

Summer Instructional Leadership Professional Development with the International Center for Leadership in Education, Ramada Inn, Topeka

June 11-12

Migrant/ELL Academies, Wheat Lands Hotel & Conference Center, Garden City

June 11-12

Adapting Instruction For At-Risk Diverse Learners, Greenbush Forbes Field, Topeka

June 15-19

Reading Academies, Junction City

June 22-26

Reading Academies, Wichita

July 8-9

Migrant/ELL Academies, Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka

July 13-17

Reading Academies, Topeka

July 20-24

Reading Academies, Wichita

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KSDE General Counsel
120 SE 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-3201

