



Last month, President Barack Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), officially replacing the No Child Left Behind Act.

ESSA restores much needed flexibility to states to make decisions based on the needs of its own students.

This is a very important first step toward rebalancing the Kansas education system and aligning it with the direction Kansas education is heading, which is to tailor education to the needs of the individual student.

This month, the Kansas State Board of Education will vote to adopt new student outcomes that support its vision of Kansas leading the world in the success of each student. Those areas being considered are:

- Kindergarten readiness
- Increasing graduation rates
- Increasing the percent of students completing a credential or pursuing post-secondary education.
- Decreasing the percent of students who need remedial coursework when they attend post-secondary schools
- Individual plans of study focused on career interest.
- Social/emotional factors relative to student success, which will be measured locally.

After the board decides which outcomes will be used, the next step will be to define how they are to be measured.

We knew when we first undertook this process of setting a new vision for Kansas education that it wouldn't be easy and that progress wouldn't happen overnight. We all have to commit to this vision to achieve success.

I believe this can be done. Together, Kansans Can achieve this vision.

