

Back To School For Kansas Educators



As the new school year begins, Kansas students won't be the only ones hitting the books and delving into new learning experiences. Kansas educators will also have the opportunity to gain insights into their profession at three upcoming conferences to be hosted by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

The [2011 Kansas MTSS Symposium](#) will take place Sept. 8-9 in Wichita (pre-conference Sept. 7). I'm always excited when the annual MTSS (Multi-Tier System of Supports) symposium comes around. This grassroots effort to ensure our schools and our educators are prepared to meet the unique and individual needs of every student has captured the imagination of educators all over our state and the turnout at the symposium grows every year. This year, participants will have the opportunity for a full day of skill-building sessions, followed up with a day of insights from representatives of Kansas schools that are implementing MTSS.

Also in September, KSDE will join with the State Attorney General's office, the Kansas Department of Homeland Security and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to offer the [2011 Kansas Safe and Prepared Schools Conference](#), Sept. 26-27 in Topeka. This annual conference covers a host of school safety issues, from crisis planning to bullying to community engagement. Educators, administrators, school counselors and other professionals interested in maintaining a safe and secure school environment will benefit from attendance at this conference.

Later this year, KSDE will host its Annual Conference Nov. 1-2 in Wichita (pre-conference Oct. 31). [The KSDE Annual Conference](#) focuses on school improvement and the continuous improvement of academic performance for all students. The theme for this year's conference is Extreme Makeover, and it will showcase Kansas school success stories as well as address some of our schools' most significant challenges for the future.

Each of these conferences offers schools and educators an opportunity to learn more about what's working in today's education environment. I look forward to attending the conferences and hope to see many of my colleagues from around the state there, as well.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane".

Dr. Diane Debacker
Kansas Commissioner of Education