Celebrating American Education Week



This month we celebrate American Education Week Nov. 11 - 17. This national observance is a great time to offer our appreciation to the many individuals and organizations that help ensure all Kansas children continue to receive a quality education.

In Kansas we're fortunate to have an education system that has consistently raised student performance on state assessments over many years. Through the commitment of educators, administrators, policy makers, parents and local communities, Kansas students continue to perform well against their peers around the nation on most measures of educational progress. I don't mean to imply that we do not have challenges in education, but the people of Kansas have always prioritized quality education and have supported work to address the challenges we face.

This year, educators in Kansas are working especially hard to implement a host of new initiatives. As schools and teachers continue to transition to new college and career ready standards in English language arts and mathematics, they are also preparing for a new accountability system that is being ushered in this school year through the state's ESEA Flexibility Waiver. In addition, we're working to develop a new school accreditation system, and to implement new assessments aligned to our college and career ready standards. It's a lot to tackle all at once, but each of the initiatives is the right thing to do for Kansas students.

We expect a lot from our educators and in Kansas we're blessed to have educators who deliver on those expectations. As we celebrate American Education Week this year, I encourage you to take a moment to thank the educators who have been important in your life and the lives of your children. But don't stop there. Be sure to include the policy makers and community members who support schools and teachers and create the environment that allows our students to be successful.

We have much to be grateful for in Kansas. American Education Week provides us the opportunity to express that gratitude.

Sincerely,



Dr. Diane DeBacker

Dr. Diane DeBacker
Kansas Commissioner of Education