

The economic future of Kansas is inextricably tied to the education of its citizens. To ensure that all Kansas students have the opportunity to learn, the Kansas P-20 Council has identified a goal and four objectives for improving student achievement.

Goal & Objectives

Develop a shared plan that builds a statewide network for increased collaboration, information sharing and cooperation across all levels of education and business and industry by:

- identifying the current capacity within the system;
- identifying the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed for the 21st century and the learning activities that support the needs of the workforce and industry;
- aligning high academic standards and teaching and learning practices for Pre-K – 12 students with post secondary education and with business and industry standards; and
- assessing the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed for success within the next level of education/work.

The P-20 Council believes. . .

- that all students can be successful throughout their lives regardless of circumstance such as race, socio-economic status, age, gender, ability or disability, or language background, and/or culture;
- in equity of educational opportunity;
- that in order to succeed, all initiatives, programs and factors that affect student learning must be considered;
- in the need to be respectful of different points of view and diverse opinions;
- that it must stand ready to initiate courageous conversations about difficult topics;
- that all key stakeholders (e.g., governance, business, families, educators, and others) need to be interconnected to the work; e.g., operating as a whole system not as separate sectors; and
- its work must be student-centered not system-focused.

Members of the P-20 Council

Clay Aurand	Ex-Officio	Chair of House Education Committee
Brenda Dietrich	Member	Representative of United School Administrators of Kansas
Christine Downey-Schmidt	Member	Postsecondary Education
Barry Downing	Member	At-Large Representative of Workforce/Business
Terry Dunn	Member	At-Large Representative of Workforce/Business
Dick Hedges	Member	Postsecondary Education
David Kerr	Ex-Officio	Secretary of Commerce or Designee
Gail Kuehl	Member	At-Large Representative of Workforce/Business
Janis Lee	Ex-Officio	Ranking Minority Member of Senate Education Committee
Jan Long	Member	Representative of Kansas Parent Teacher Association
Melissa Ness	Member	Member of Children's Cabinet - Early Childhood
Doug Penner	Member	Higher Education - Kansas Independent College Association
Alexa Posny	Ex-Officio	Commissioner of Education
Linda Robinson	Member	At-Large Representative of USD 497 Board of Education
Pam Robinson	Member	Representative of Kansas Association of School Boards
Reggie Robinson	Ex-Officio	President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Jean Schodorf	Ex-Officio	Chair of Senate Education Committee
Sue Storm	Ex-Officio	Ranking Minority Member of House Education Committee
Bill Wagnon	Member	K-12 Representative Kansas State Board of Education
Janet Waugh	Member	K-12 Representative Kansas State Board of Education
Blake West	Member	Representative of a Kansas National Teachers Association
Kate Wolff	Ex-Officio	Governor's Office

"In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a pre-requisite. The countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow."

– President Barack Obama



Preparing All Kansas Students for the 21st Century

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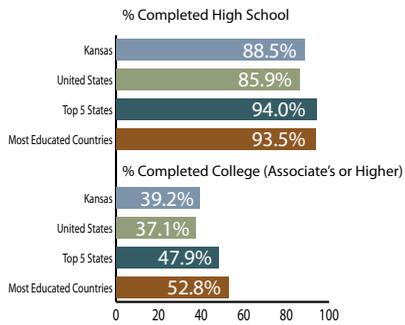
The World Has Changed...

We live in a world **without** borders. In order to keep our **economy** thriving, Kansas students need to be **prepared** to live in this world. We need to have the highest expectations for each and every child in this state. Requirements for the 21st century workplace include higher levels of **technical** and **entrepreneurial** skills than ever before. A **common core** of standards that are **internationally benchmarked**, **aligned** with work and postsecondary, **inclusive** of higher order skills, **based** on research and evidence, and inclusive of **rigorous content** and **skills** are a necessity if **Kansas students** are going to be **competitive** in the 21st century.

We have **great** schools in Kansas, but many of our high school graduates are ill-prepared for the level of skill needed whether it be in the workplace or postsecondary education. Remedial education is an expensive proposition and reduces the likelihood that a student will complete his/her postsecondary education.

How Does Kansas Measure Up?

Kansas' Young Adults Compared to the U.S. and Best Performing Countries (Age 25 to 34)



Note: The most educated countries in 2005 include Korea, Japan and Canada.

In Kansas:

A higher percentage of young adults have completed high school than the U.S. average, but lower than the top states and the most educated countries.

A higher percentage of young adults have earned college degrees than the U.S. average, but lower than the most educated countries.*

*The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

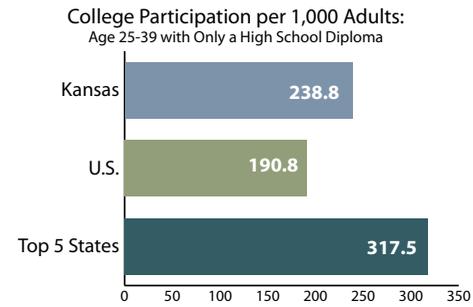
Additionally, Kansas employers noted in regional focus groups in 2008 that they had a tremendous **need** for **candidates** with the skills to do the job. Specifically, they want candidates with a strong work ethic and the **ability to collaborate** to solve problems. They agreed that employees **must be ready** to learn quickly because of the constantly changing workplace. New technology, new production lines, and new regulations require employees to have a **fundamental** base in **English** and **mathematics** if they are to succeed in today's workplace. Educating some students to a lesser degree narrows their options to jobs that no longer pay well enough to support a family.



Pursuing Higher Level Skills in Kansas:

Postsecondary institutions serve young adults (25 to 39 year olds who only have a high school diploma) at a lower rate than the top states.*

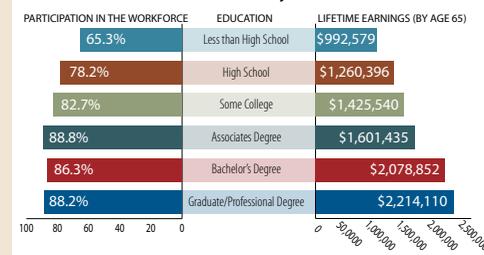
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There is also a need to **align** postsecondary **expectations** with high school **practice**. What most postsecondary instructors expect entering college students to know is far more **targeted** and **specific** than what high school teachers view as **important**. Additionally, there are specific **differences** between **high school** instruction and **postsecondary** expectations in every major **curriculum** area. For example, high school English teachers are **concerned** with **idea development** while higher education teachers are concerned with **writing mechanics**. In mathematics, high school instructors are **developing** advanced **math content** with students; higher education instructors want more **rigorous fundamentals**.

The P-20 Council is **committed** to fulfilling the state's responsibility for delivering and funding an **integrated quality educational system** that prepares Kansans for success. To that end, the Council is **conducting a gap analysis** to determine how well the current high school standards **align** with what **postsecondary** and the **world of work** need and want. A **linking study** between high school assessments and other tests used for postsecondary and workforce placement is also **being undertaken**. The **alignment team** will look at high school standards to see how they align with what is being requested by institutions of higher education (IHEs). By the fall of 2009, a draft of the **alignment requirements** will be available to assist in the development of common core standards—a task Kansas will be undertaking in collaboration with other states.

How Does Education Pay Off for Kansas?



*The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

In Kansas:

Working-age residents with college degrees are 32 percent more likely to participate in the workforce than those with less than a high school diploma.

And their earnings over a lifetime are twice as much - a substantial personal benefit as well as a benefit to the state with respect to more taxable resources, fewer health problems, lower rates of crime, and greater levels of civic engagement.*

The Next Steps...

During the coming months, the Kansas P-20 Council will be developing the recommendations designed to move Kansas forward. While being cognizant of the financial constraints facing the state and its citizens, the Council will not allow lack of money to derail the strategic planning. Indeed, in this economic time, it is vitally important to set priorities and target investments for the greatest impact.

We know what needs to be done. The challenge is to take action, community by community, that will turn this vision into tangible improvements for the youth of our state. All stakeholders are counting on our leadership.



We need your help. Be part of the solution.

- Spread the word about the P-20 vision and why action is so urgent,
- Take steps in your organization to turn this vision into action.
- Add your voice to the debate.
- Stay up-to-date on Council meetings. <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2880>