Kansas state department of Education

Division of Learning Services

785-296-2303
785-296-1413 (fax)

120 SE 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612-1182 • 785-296-6338 (TTY) • www.ksde.org

Date: May 23, 2011

To: School Leaders

FROM: Brad Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner

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AYP Waiver Request Denied

Commissioner Diane DeBacker was notified May 13, 2011 by the U.S. Department of Education that the State Board of Education's request for flexibility in the state's AYP accountability plan had been denied.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Yudin expressed appreciation for the hard work Kansas was undertaking in making the transition to the Common Core Standards and the SMARTER Balanced Assessments, but said the position of the U.S. Department of Education was that the best way to assist states in those efforts was through timely reauthorization of ESEA.

A news release distributed by KSDE regarding the denial can be found at: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=36&ctl=Details&mid=1030&ItemID=541.

State Board's Approved Mission, Motto, Goals and Objectives

At their May, 2011 meeting, the State Board of Education approved their mission, motto, goals and objectives to guide their work through 2012. Their approved mission, motto, goals, and objectives can be found at: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=423.

Kansas Common Core Update

- In an effort to promote the transition to the KS Common Core Standards, effective June 1, 2011 the previous 2003 Kansas Curricular Standards for Mathematics, 2003 Kansas Curricular Standards for Reading, and the 2004 Kansas Curricular Standards for Writing will be taken off the KSDE website. To obtain a copy of those standards after June 1, 2011 you will need to contact the content area consultant. If you have any questions or concerns about this please contact Jeannette Nobo at (785) 296-2078 or e-mail at jnobo@ksde.org.

- A training of Trainers (TOT) Model is being developed in order to promote consistency in message and increase capacity of possible trainers available to the field on implementation and transitioning to the common core. The training date has been a moving target, and now we are looking at the 2nd and/or 3rd week in August to conduct this training. As we refine the TOT model we will be able to determine the exact date(s) of the training. More information to come.

- Don't forget to register for the Common Core Summer Academies there is still room at a few locations! The registration site is: http://events.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=543

Kansas Educator Evaluation Protocol (KEEP)

The development of the pilot instrument is complete! Stakeholders began the work of developing KEEP in September of 2010 which was facilitated by Educational Testing Services. Tasks included scrutiny of both the ISLLC and InTASC Standards, listening and interacting with national experts. KEEP reflects the contexts of Kansas school districts while exceeding the proposed federal expectations. The foundation of KEEP is built upon a continuous improvement model reflecting the supports all educators need to continue to bring a quality education to the students of Kansas. KEEP information will be available to all districts by the first of July. KEEP will be piloted in districts desiring to participate during the 2011/12 school year. For more information, please contact Pamela Coleman at pcoleman@ksde.org.

Kansas Council for Economic Education

Since 1959, the Kansas Council for Economic Education (KCEE) has been equipping Kansas teachers and educating K-12 students on the foundational subjects of Economics & Personal Finance. KCEE offers:

- Free educator training & professional development workshops
- Free student programs & incentives
- Free & discounted standards-based curriculum resources
- Partial tuition assistance for certified teachers seeking graduate credit

The Council also partners with six regional Centers for Economic Education at the state's Regents universities to provide educator with first-hand economic understanding and professionally developed curriculum, lesson plans, and classroom materials. For further information, please contact KCEE. Their contact information is listed below.

Main Phone: (316) 978-5183
Jim Graham: (316) 978-5165
Angela Howdeshell: (316) 978-5335
Fax: (316) 978-5164
E-mail: kcee@wichita.edu
Web site: www.kcee.wichita.edu

Registration for the 2011 Kansas MTSS Symposium is now open!

The 4th Annual Kansas MTSS Symposium has been expanded to provide more opportunities for professional development and learning. This year's symposium will be held September 8-9, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency, Wichita. This year's symposium will provide over 40 sessions. Presenters will include Kansas schools as well as national presenters including Anita Archer, Julie Esparaza Brown, Chris Cain, Dave Edyburn, Steve Kukic, Louisa Moats, Paul Riccomini, Terry Scott, Randy Sprick, and Brad Witzel.

Conference information and registration can be found on the Kansas MTSS website: www.kansasmtss.org.

Growth Models

KSDE staff has put together a listing of resources on Growth Models. The resources can be found at: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=116, scroll down to "Research and Resources."

Curriculum Leaders' Session on Common Core

At the April 29 Curriculum Leaders' meeting, KSDE staff provided an update on the Common Core Standards. You can access the live streaming of the meeting at: http://mediastream.ksde.org/Media/LiveRemote/Curriculum%20Leaders%20Meeting%20April%2029%202011.mp4.

DLS Directory

In order to assist you and your staff with questions regarding a particular area or program, we have put together a listing of staff within the Division of Learning Services. This listing includes the areas, etc. with which staff work. You can access the directory at: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1644, under "Topics" click on DLS Staff Directory.