

Draft Outline P-20 Council Final Report

Background

In Executive Order 08-05 establishing the Kansas P-20 Education Council, Governor Kathleen Sebelius directed that:

- The Council shall establish a vision statement, mission statement and guiding principles that reflect the needs of the education system.
- The Council shall create a shared plan for reaching the state’s vision of a comprehensive system of education and shall establish benchmarks to promote the Council’s commitment to success.
- The Council shall focus on standards-based improvement in P20 policy and program coherence and coordination among the state department of education, school districts, postsecondary institutions, state department of commerce, businesses, communities and foundations.

Based on this charge, the Council’s vision is to develop “an integrated high quality educational system that prepares Kansas for life and work.” Its mission is “to prepare students for success in life from preschool to graduate school and/or work in the 21st century by identifying, in partnership with all stakeholders, system approaches that support, cultivate and/or sustain a collaborative, seamless system of education.”

To carry out its vision and mission, the Council developed the following goal and four objectives:

Goal: 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:

- Objective 1:* Identifying the current capacity within the system;
- Objective 2:* Identifying the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed for the 21st century and the learning activities that support the needs of the workforce and industry;
- Objective 3:* Aligning high academic standards and teaching and learning practices for Pre-K-12 students with postsecondary education and with business and industry standards; and
- Objective 4:* Assessing the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed for success within the next level of education/work.

Council Activities

In partial fulfillment of its charge and implementation of its strategy, the Council heard from a variety of individuals, including:

- Governor Sebelius
- Mike Cohen, President of Achieve, Inc.
- Robin Harris, Assistant Director, Career, Standards & Assessments, KSDE
- Blake Flanders, Vice President of Workforce Development, KBOR
- Jim Redmon, Executive Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet
- Gayle Stuber, Coordinator, Early Childhood Education, KSDE
- Janet Newton, Program Consultant, Parents as Teachers, KSDE
- Linda Alexander, Dean, School of Education, MidAmerica Nazarene University
- Peggy Harris, Dean, School of Education, Baker University
- Debby Mercer, Dean, School of Education, Fort Hays State University
- Andy Tompkins, Dean, School of Education, Pittsburg State University
- Kathryn Hund, Director of Education and Training, Dept. of Commerce/KBOR
- Leadership and staff from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), Kansas Department of Commerce

Based on the information provided by these experts, the P-20 Council has promoted/supported the following activities:

- Secured the Governor's signature on an Executive Order allowing KSDE and KBOR to share data in developing a longitudinal data base
- Formed an alignment team charged to work with high school and college faculty to promote alignment between what is required to graduate from high school (in mathematics and language arts) and the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in both postsecondary education and the workplace. This was done by reviewing the common Core Standards developed through the National Governor's Association and Chief State School Officers, and supported by some 46 states
- Contracted with Achieve, Inc. to assist in Gap analysis regarding alignment of high school and college expectations
- Surveyed higher education institutions regarding entry level math and language arts readiness standards
- Proposed three recommendations to strengthen early childhood education in Kansas: (1) improve teacher and provider quality through coordination and collaboration at the state and local levels; (2) promote coordination at the state and local levels to build a continuum of services and education from birth to grade three; (3) coordinate data collection and analysis and use results to promote evidence-based practices
- Strengthened the relationship between KSDE and KBOR through coordination of effort in such areas as teacher education and longitudinal data collection

Final Report: Draft Outline

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Report on Activities
 - a. Current Activities
 - i. Identify Current Capacity
 - ii. 21st Century Skills for Workforce and Industry
 - iii. Alignment
 - iv. Collaborative Network
 - b. Possible Next Steps
 - i. Identify Current Capacity
 - ii. 21st Century Skills for Workforce and Industry
 - iii. Alignment
 - iv. Collaborative Network
- III. Recommendations
 - a. To Governor and Legislature
 - b. To Agencies
 - c. Continuation of P-20 Activities

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Final Report: Draft Outline with Commentary

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Report on the Activities of the Kansas Education P-20 Council

The Council identified four broad areas under which to achieve its mission and goal:
(a) Identify Current Capacity; (b) 21st Century Skills for Workforce and Industry;
(c) Alignment; and (d) Collaborative Network.

A. Current Activities

a. Identify Current Capacity

1. Heard presentations from KSDE, KBOR, Commerce on academic programs, workforce needs, 21st century skills, teacher preparation
2. KBOR's Foresight 2020 emphasizes increasing degree/credential completers

b. 21st Century Skills for Workforce and Industry

1. KSBE has adopted Career Technical Education Policy Initiatives requiring all local education agencies to ensure every student has access to career planning services and require every student to utilize a personalized college career plan of study. Strong career options exist in STEM fields
2. Career Cluster initiative underway
3. Identified critical industries for focus – bioscience, health, advanced manufacturing/aviation, energy, professional services, value-added agriculture, and construction

c. Alignment

1. Districts use state assessments to determine academic proficiency – different results than National Association of Education Progress (NAEP). Moving to National Test standards – working with ACHIEVE, ACT, National Governor's Association, others
2. Gap analysis underway bringing together high school and college faculty to evaluate common core standards and develop a clear understanding of college readiness
3. KSDE and KBOR staff are collaborating in development of a longitudinal database

d. Collaborative Network

1. Regular collaboration of KSDE and KBOR staff in such areas as teacher education, data sharing, alignment of college readiness expectations

2. KSDE has received two grants resulting in shared data among Kansas Department of Labor, KSDE and KBOR
3. KBOR and Commerce share a staff member and are working to coordinate activities related to aligning postsecondary educational programs with the needs of the workforce

B. Possible Next Steps

a. Identify Current Capacity

1. Emphasize both access AND success in postsecondary education
2. Focus on broad definition of success, e.g., meaningful credentials, associate, bachelor, post-baccalaureate degrees
3. Encourage legislators to provide financial support for part-time students; meet needs of adult learners

b. 21st Century Skills for Workforce and Industry

1. Provide incentives to promote STEM majors, e.g., scholarships, loan forgiveness, tuition reimbursement

c. Alignment

1. Integrate/link data systems of KSDE, KBOR, Labor, Commerce, Adult Education, public workforce in order better to link individuals with the resources they require
2. Promote system-level coordination of a credit transfer system

d. Collaborative Network

1. Promote collaboration between Commerce (WIA, Title I) and Adult Basic Education (ABE, Title II) in linking ABE to both postsecondary educational opportunities and workforce needs

C. Summary and Recommendations

a. Governor's Original Recommendations

- i. The Council shall establish a vision statement, mission statement and guiding principles that reflect the needs of the education system.
 1. Done – used to promote collaboration among relevant state agencies, e.g., KSDE, KBOR, Commerce, Labor.
- ii. The Council shall create a shared plan for reaching the state's vision of a comprehensive system of education and shall establish benchmarks to promote the council's commitment to success.
 1. ?
- iii. The Council shall focus on standards-based improvement in P20 policy and program coherence and coordination among the state department of education, school districts, postsecondary institutions, state department of commerce, businesses, communities and foundations.
 1. Alignment activities, including establishment and growth of longitudinal data base, regular and close collaboration among agency staff (especially KSDE and KBOR)

b. Recommendations

- i. To Governor
- ii. To agencies
- iii. Regarding continuation of P-20 activities

Appendix: Report on the Activities of the Kansas Education P-20 Council (repeats above commentary without categories)

A. Current Activities

1. Heard presentations from KSDE, KBOR, Commerce on academic programs, workforce needs, 21st century skills, teacher preparation
2. KBOR's Foresight 2020 emphasizes increasing degree/credential completers
3. KSBE has adopted Career Technical Education Policy Initiatives requiring all local education agencies to ensure every student has access to career planning services and require every student to utilize a personalized college career plan of study. Strong career options exist in STEM fields.
4. Career Cluster initiative underway.
5. Identified critical industries for focus – bioscience, health, advanced manufacturing/aviation, energy, professional services, value-added agriculture, and construction.
6. Districts use state assessments to determine academic proficiency – different results than National Association of Education Progress (NAEP). Moving to National Test standards – working with ACHIEVE, ACT, National Governor's Association, others.
7. Gap analysis underway bringing together high school and college faculty to evaluate common core standards and develop a clear understanding of college readiness.
8. KSDE and KBOR staff are collaborating in development of a longitudinal database
9. Regular collaboration of KSDE and KBOR staff in such areas as teacher education, data sharing, alignment of college readiness expectations
10. KSDE has received two grants resulting in shared data among Kansas Department of Labor, KSDE and KBOR
11. KBOR and Commerce share a staff member and are working to coordinate activities related to aligning postsecondary educational programs with the needs of the workforce

B. Possible Next Steps

1. Emphasize both access AND success in postsecondary education
2. Focus on broad definition of success, e.g., meaningful credentials, associate, bachelor, post-baccalaureate degrees
3. Encourage legislators to provide financial support for part-time students; meet needs of adult learners
4. Provide incentives to promote STEM majors, e.g., scholarships, loan forgiveness, tuition reimbursement
5. Integrate/link data systems of KSDE, KBOR, Labor, Commerce, Adult Education, public workforce in order better to link individuals with the resources they require
6. Promote system-level coordination of a credit transfer system
7. Promote collaboration between Commerce (WIA, Title I) and Adult Basic Education (ABE, Title II) in linking ABE to both postsecondary educational opportunities and workforce needs