Kansas state department of Education

Division of Learning Services

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Date: March 16, 2011

To: School Leaders

FROM: Brad Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner

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KSDE Training Videos

In order to better communicate with the field, KSDE has started to provide statewide training videos. The first one is on Common Core 101. The training videos are available at the following KSDE website: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4682. We will share further information as other training videos become available.

New KEEB Launch

The Kansas Education Employment Board switched platforms on March 1, 2011 to incorporate new features for employers and applicants. To date, 2181 new applicants have created an account, 312 positions have been posted by school districts and 991 applicants have applied for a position utilizing KEEB. New features for employers include a one click export of all applications for a given position, email references directly from KEEB, and survey questions asked of applicants to name a few. Integration with several applicant tracking systems and refined search features are near completion as well. Please contact KEEB staff if assistance with the transition is needed. KEEB staff can be reached at support@kansasteachingjobs.com or 620-724-6281 or 913-638-0151. The URL remains the same: http://www.kansasteachingjobs.com.

TASN

The Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) is provided by the Special Education Services team and offers a wide range of services and supports, including technical assistance, training and other resources. For more information, please visit: http://ksdetasn.org. Be sure to check out the calendar for more information about scheduled activities.

Career Cluster Guidance Handbook

The final 2011-2012 version of the Career Cluster Guidance Handbook has now been posted on the KSDE website at: http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=527sW5DwSZU%3d&tabid=249
This handbook is designed as a guidance tool in developing Career Cluster Pathways Programs of Study for the 2011-2012 school year. It contains all 31 pathway design sheets, KSDE CTE staff contact information, sample Program of Study templates, Career Cluster resources and terminology, and a crosswalk chart showing all courses that are available in more than one pathway.
In August 2011, KSDE staff will update this handbook for guidance needed to prepare for the 2012-2013 school year.

Special Education Data

KSDE is required by OSEP to publicly report data from the *State Performance Plan Annual Performance Report* on the KSDE website. The data comes from the *State Performance Plan Annual Performance Report* Results and the Compliance Indicators. Each indicator has measurement criteria that are unique and specific to that indicator. Every indicator has unique targets established for every year through FFY 2010. KSDE has been publically reporting data since FFY 2004. There are two types of Public Reports, the *State Performance Plan Public Report* which contains state-wide data and the individual *District IDEA State Performance Plan Public Reports* for each USD. For the purposes of maintaining student confidentiality, KSDE does not make public any information where cell size is less than 10. Therefore, the Public report displays district level data, the state-wide target and whether the district met the state-wide target. The District IDEA State Performance Plan Public Reports for Kansas will be posted on the KSDE website on April 8, 2011.

MTSS Structuring for District Leadership Teams

As an extension of the *MTSS Leadership Essentials* workshop, the MTSS Core Team will be offering a new training specifically for those districts wanting to approach the MTSS from the district level. The MTSS Core Team members will be available to guide a District Leadership Team (DLT) through the MTSS Structuring from a district perspective addressing specific MTSS components and making decisions around assessments, curriculum, instruction, professional development, etc. After the district structures are in place and district-wide decisions made, the building leadership teams would begin the MTSS Structuring at the building level. For more information about MTSS Structuring for District Leadership Teams, please contact Susan Sipe, MTSS Core Team Director @ ssipe@kansasmtss.org.

Safe and Supportive Schools

Kansas is one of 11 states that will share in a $38.8 million Safe and Supportive Schools grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of the grant is to measure school safety at the building level and provide funds for interventions in those schools with the greatest needs. The ultimate goal is to create and support safe and drug-free learning environments and increase the academic success of students in high-risk schools.

Kansas' share of the grant will total $9.4 million over four years. The Kansas State Department of Education plans to use the funds to develop a Safe and Supportive Schools Continuum for support at the high school level. The plan calls for creating a valid instrument to measure school climate by expanding on a number of existing assessments. The development of the school climate measurement in the first year of the grant will assist schools in determining a school safety score based on school climate and culture.

While the first year of the grant will be devoted to planning and completing needs assessments for schools, in years two through four of the grant at least 80 percent of the funds will be devoted to interventions to address identified needs, with a particular emphasis on alcohol/drug use, bullying and violent acts. Funding will also support schools in aligning evidence based interventions with the state's Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) program.

Public Comment on Non-Regulatory Guidance

A reminder that KSDE is seeking feedback from the field regarding guidelines outlined in the **Professional Learning Experience Toolkit & Appendix** (implemented in CTE Career Cluster Pathways) at: http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=370&&BlogID=81. The purpose of **Professional Learning Experiences** is to connect technical skill development at the application-level to authentic industry-related experiences for the individual student learner across all career clusters fields and pathways. The DRAFT Professional Learning Toolkit & Appendix is located on the KSDE website at: http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=mKpXEaNaX4Q%3d&tabid=1660&mid=8741&forcedownload=true. We invite your feedback on this important document. Comment window will close March 17, 2011. Thank you.

For further information, please contact Robin Harris, rharris@ksde.org, (785) 296-3951.

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KSDE is also seeking feedback on the ***Sunflower Literacy Learning Framework***. The **Framework** includes current research, promising practices, and effective strategies and programs in the areas of reading, writing, and understanding for students from ages birth through grade 12. This document is designed to be a foundation for what research indicates should be in a fully functioning plan for a school or district. Additional sections will not be as dense and will be geared to teachers and other practitioners. This is only the first section of an overall set of documents. Opportunity for public comment regarding this document can be found at the Public Comment for KSDE Non-Regulatory Guidance site located at: http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=370&&BlogID=80. We invite your comments for the next 30 days.

For further information, please visit their website: http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.ksde.org/literacy, or contact Lynn Bechtel, lbechtel@ksde.org or (785) 296-8110.

SAVE THE DATE

Career & Technical Education

Drive-In Workshop 2011

Monday, August 8, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. *(Check-in – 8:30 a.m.)*
Highland Hotel and Convention Center in Great Bend

Regardless of school size, properly developed career cluster pathways enable students to meet both graduation and career ready requirements. Learn how to integrate academics and CTE to benefit **ALL** students in this one day workshop.

Topics:

- Best practices
- Articulation agreements
- Assessment
- Adding pathways
- Pathway updates
- Proficiency-based credit
- Rigorous Programs of Study (RPOS) Framework

For more information visit www.ksde.org or call (785) 296-3951

Kansas State Department of Education
Career, Standards and Assessments

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