

# KANSAS EDUCATION SHINES

## Focus on students...

- Kansas students continue to top the national average composite score for reading and mathematics on the ACT assessment. In 2007, the ACT national average composite score was 21.2, up from 21.1 the previous year. Still, Kansas students continued to perform better with an average composite score of 21.9. With 76.3% of all graduating seniors in Kansas taking the ACT, Kansas ranks in the top 20 percent in participation and the five year trend on Kansas students is continuing upward. Six Kansas students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. *ACT, Inc.*
- Kansas students participating in the SAT assessment posted a mean score of 583 on critical reading, compared to the national average of 502. In mathematics, the mean score for Kansas students was 590, compared to the nationwide mean score of 515. In 2006, the SAT exam included a writing component for the first time. Kansas students posted a mean score of 569 in this category. Nationwide, the mean score in writing was 494. Five Kansas students scored a perfect 2400 on the SAT. *The College Board.*
- More Kansas students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2007, showing an increase of 13 percent from last year. Over a 10 year period there was an increase of 5 percent in reading and 15 percent in math. Additionally, more exams received grades of 3 or higher on a 5 point scale, which potentially qualified students for credit, advanced placement, or both, at colleges and universities worldwide, an increase of 9.4 percent. Two Kansas students received AP State Scholar Awards based on their outstanding performance on the Advanced Placement Program (APO) Examinations. *The College Board.*
- In Kansas, 77 percent of the 2006-07 graduating seniors went on to postsecondary education. *KSDE, January 2007.*
- On the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Kansas 4th graders ranked second in the nation on the mathematics assessment, with 89 percent of the students tested scoring basic or above. Kansas 8th graders also ranked second in the nation in mathematics, with 82 percent of students tested scoring basic or above. In reading, Kansas 4th graders ranked 6th in the nation, with 72 percent of students tested scoring basic or above; and 8th graders ranked 6th in the nation with 81 percent of students tested scoring at basic or above. *NAEP, <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>*

## Focus on schools...

- Attendance in Kansas public schools remains high, with an average daily attendance rate of 95 percent. *[www.ksde.org/reportcard](http://www.ksde.org/reportcard)*
- Graduation rates in Kansas are at an all-time high with a reported 90.2 percent of Kansas students graduating, topping the national average of 84.2 percent. *ACT, Inc.*
- Eighty-nine percent of all Kansas public schools made AYP in the 2006-07 school year, with 95 percent of Title 1 schools making AYP. Eighty-nine percent of districts made AYP. Ninety-five percent of Kansas's Title 1 districts made AYP under the NCLB legislation definition. *[www.ksde.org/reportcard](http://www.ksde.org/reportcard)*
- Five Kansas schools received the 2007 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award, joining 19 other Kansas schools which have been named since 2003. They are as follows: Morris Hill Elementary School, USD 475 Geary County; Eisenhower Elementary School, USD 475 Geary County; Buckner Performing Arts Magnet, USD 259 Wichita; Lincoln Elementary School, USD 431 Hoisington; and Herington Elementary School, USD 487 Herington. They were honored in November in Washington DC. *<http://www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html>*
- Five Kansas schools were nominated for the 2008 NCLB-Blue Ribbon School Award. Recipients will be named in September 2008.
- Keith L. Ware was one of four schools in the nation to receive a 5th Annual Dispelling the Myth Award given by the Education Trust. The award honors high performing and gap-closing schools from around the nation that serve large populations of low income students or students of color.

## Focus on teachers and administrators...

- In the 2006-07 school year, 95 percent of Kansas teachers were fully licensed in their assigned subject area, serving the children of Kansas. Ninety-one percent were highly qualified according to the No Child Left Behind legislation. Highly qualified teachers are fully licensed and have demonstrated depth of content in the area to which they are assigned. *KSDE, Teacher Education & Licensure Team, Jan. 2007.*
- Jeri Powers, a reading specialist at Riverview Elementary School, USD 232 De Soto is the 2008 Kansas Teacher of the Year.
- In 2007, 267 Kansas educators were certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. Thirty-four teachers received certification in 2007.
- Mr. Jim Lentz, superintendent of USD 402 Augusta, is the 2007 Kansas Superintendent of the Year.