



Graduation Rates

This month Kansas seniors will cross the stage to receive their high school diplomas — a great accomplishment and something they have worked hard for during the past 13 years. Graduation is very important, but it also is important to make sure each student has the proper skill set to take that next step, whatever postsecondary plan is to be followed.

During the 2014-2015 school year, Kansas' overall graduation rate was 85.7 percent. The national high school graduation rate hit 82 percent in 2013-2014.

While our state's hard work is paying off, we can still do better. We need every high school senior to graduate with the skills necessary to have a successful future. Every graduate needs to be able to enter into college or the workforce poised and prepared. This is why the Kansas State Board of Education's new vision for education and the five outcomes are so important.

Students who are prepared for kindergarten have a higher skill set than their peers. And we know academics alone don't guarantee a student's success after high school — that is where social-emotional learning comes into play. We also know having a solid Individual Plan of Study in place can help all students obtain a clear vision of their path toward college and career readiness.

By 2020, 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require postsecondary education and training.

In order to meet the projected education requirements for our future workforce, it is imperative we increase the percent of students who earn a high school diploma.

The Kansas State Board of Education's new vision for education is about the success of each student. We can reach a goal of every senior graduating, but we also need to make sure each student is prepared for his or her future by receiving the best education possible. With your help and hard work, we will achieve these goals!

Together, Kansans Can!

Sincerely,

