



Office of the Commissioner

Kansas State Department of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

(785) 296-3202
(785) 291-3791 - fax
www.ksde.org

Kansas College and Career Academic Readiness Assessment

KEY POINTS:

- 1. This is a new day in Kansas education.** – the Kansas College and Career Ready standards have raised the bar on what students should know and be able to demonstrate in order to be successful after high school. We support these new standards because they better address the rigor and skills needed to prepare today's students for success in college and careers.
 - We know that whether they want to go to college or straight into the workplace, our students need to be able to think critically and solve complex problems. Ensuring that our students have these tools empowers parents and students, because it gives them the ability to make choices about their future and make the most of their opportunities.
- 2. Our goal is to prepare every Kansas student for success.** – The days of “sit and get” in the classroom are long gone. Our teachers are introducing real-world challenges and concepts and then helping students trust in their own abilities to reason and think critically in order to craft solutions. For some of our older students, this is a dramatic shift in learning and can be uncomfortable, but they're adapting well and learning perseverance that will serve them well in the future. For our younger students, this approach is all they know and it's really exciting to watch them take off.
- 3. Student performance has not declined** – As educators, our greatest challenge with this year's assessment results will be to teach parents, students and the public that student performance has NOT declined! It is an expected outcome that when the bar is raised, there will be a lower percentage of students reaching that higher standard, initially. This is not an indication that student performance has declined. We're asking them to perform at higher levels. We know our students can do it and we know we can help them get there, but it will take time.

- These results are the first for our students to measure the academic goals laid out in our Kansas College and Career Ready Standards aimed at preparing students with the skills and knowledge they need.
- The assessment scores this year should not be compared to previous scores. As with any change, there is a period of adjustment as teachers and students get used to the new standards and tests.
- It's already working for students and teachers—more young people are prepared for success. The results today set a new baseline, and we will see scores increase over time.
 - For example, in Kentucky, the first state to begin using the Common Core State Standards, the percentage of high school graduates ready for college and career has increased from 34 percent to 62 percent in four years.
 - [IF DISTRICT AVERAGE IS ABOVE STATE AVERAGE]: Across the district, our students are performing above state averages, confirming that we're on the right track to setting all students up for success.
 - [IF DISTRICT AVERAGE IN BELOW STATE AVERAGE]: We know there's still a lot of work to do to prepare students for success in college and beyond. But by having accurate data and a new baseline, we can work to help all students on their pathway to success.
- Teachers are the experts about what is happening in their classrooms and are an invaluable resource for parents. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher(s) with any questions they may have about their child's score report or academic trajectory.

4. Here is what we're doing to move the needle forward on assessment results:

(Every school list 2-3 ways in which they are working to improve student success.)

For the past five years, our educators have been working hard to help all students rise to the challenge set by our new academic goals. We applaud their efforts and will continue to find ways to support them.

- [SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF: PD and/or RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE PROVIDED]

BACKGROUND:

- The Kansas State Board of Education voted to adopt the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in 2010 because it recognized that **the rigor of college and the needs of the workforce have changed and Kansas' previous academic standards, while right for that time, were no longer addressing the rigor needed to prepare today's students for success after high school.**
- It is a disservice to students, parents, colleges and businesses to classify students as proficient on an assessment when in practice they required remedial courses to succeed.
- No Child Left Behind created an atmosphere that placed too much emphasis on a single test by saying that EVERY child should be at a certain achievement level by a predetermined date. In doing so, teachers were forced to narrow their teaching to simply get every student to reach that minimum level of proficiency – that didn't equate to preparing them for life after high school. We were, in essence, selling our students short by not challenging them to achieve at higher levels, and that's simply not acceptable.

EDUCATION GOAL

We have to get more students completing some post-secondary education in order to meet the needs of the Kansas' workforce and we believe these standards will help get us there.

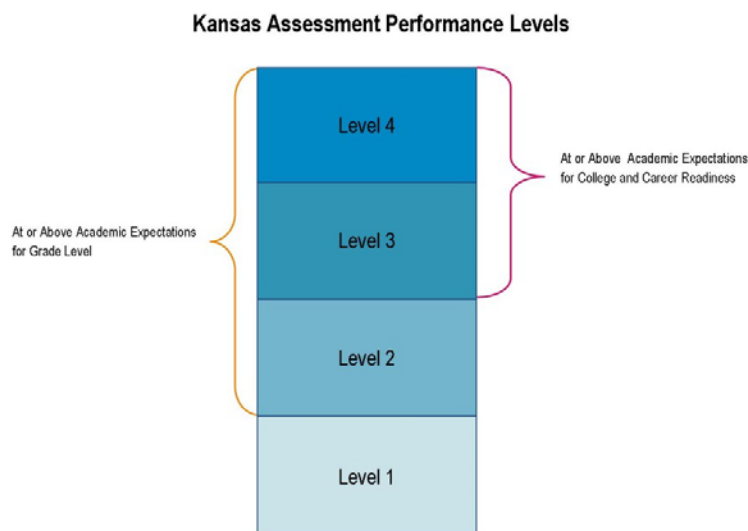
- By 2020, it is estimated that 71% of all jobs in Kansas will require some post-secondary education. Today, only 52% of Kansans have "some" post-secondary education. How are we going to close that 20% gap? (Source: Georgetown Public Policy Institute)

A NEW DAY IN EDUCATION

- This is the first year that Kansas students are being assessed on the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards. These standards are more rigorous than any before and the Kansas College and Career Academic Ready Assessment is more rigorous than any before. In fact, some teachers assert that our assessment is more rigorous than NAEP and the 10th grade mathematics test is more demanding than even the ACT and taken a year earlier.
- It is important to understand that we cannot compare the results of this assessment to any other taken. The results will not match up.
- Teachers made it very clear throughout the process that we must stay the course with the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards and give them the time needed to get their students meeting the higher standards.

ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE LEVELS

- In setting cut scores, Kansas teachers did not think in terms of a pass/no pass line, but rather in terms of a four-level scale capturing a range of student achievement characteristics that could be used to inform instruction.
- Kansas teachers set these cut scores based on their belief in their students - that they will meet these higher standards - and their belief in themselves that they can get their students to these higher standards.
- **Level 2 is not failing.** A student performing at Level 2 is doing good, basic work required of that grade level, but not doing the work at the depth and rigor to be on track for college and career readiness.



TIMELINE FOR RELEASE OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS

September 8

- Kansas State Board of Education approves cut scores
- Release of KS statewide aggregate assessment results

October 1 (Approx.)

- School districts receive results via the authenticated system (non-public) to review for accuracy

Following data review

- Districts to begin releasing parent letters

December 8-9

- State Report Card presented to Kansas State Board of Education during December meeting