

Section V

Quality Performance Accreditation Regulations

Acronyms

Glossary

91-31-31. Definitions. (a) "Accredited" means the status assigned to a school that meets the minimum performance and quality criteria established by the state board.

(b) "Accredited on improvement" means the status assigned to a school that, for two consecutive years, is described by any of the following:

(1) The school fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria applicable to the school.

(2) The school has a prescribed percentage of students in one or more student subgroups that fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria applicable to the school.

(3) The school fails to meet three or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

(c) "Conditionally accredited" means the status assigned to a school that, for three consecutive years, is described by either of the following:

(1) The school has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments.

(2) The school fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

(d) "Curriculum standards" means statements, adopted by the state board, of what students should know and be able to do in specific content areas.

(e) "External technical assistance team" means a group of persons selected by a school for the purpose of advising school staff on issues of school improvement, curricula and instruction, student performance, and other accreditation matters.

(f) "Local board of education" means the board of education of any unified school district or the governing body of any nonpublic school.

(g) "Not accredited" means the status assigned to a school that, for five consecutive years, is described by either of the following:

(1) The school has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments.

(2) The school fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

(h) "Onsite visit" means a visit at a school by either the school's external technical assistance team or a state technical assistance team.

(i) "School" means an organizational unit that, for the purposes of school improvement, constitutes a logical sequence of elements that may be structured as grade levels, developmental levels, or instructional levels.

(j) "School improvement plan" means a multiyear plan for five years or less that is developed by a school and that states specific actions for achieving continuous improvement in student performance.

(k) "Standards of excellence" means the expectations for academic achievement that the state board has set for Kansas schools.

(l) "State assessments" means the assessments that the state board administers in order to measure student learning within the Kansas curriculum standards for mathematics, reading, science, history and government, and writing.

(m) "State board" means the state board of education.

(n) "State technical assistance team" means a group of persons appointed by the state department of education to assist schools in meeting the performance and quality criteria established by the state board.

(o) "Student subgroup" means those students within a school who, for monitoring purposes, are classified by a common factor, including economic disadvantage, race, ethnicity, disability, and limited English proficiency.

(p) "Unit of credit" means a measure of credit that may be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of a particular course or subject. A full unit of credit is credit that is awarded for satisfactory completion of a course or subject that is offered for and generally requires 120 clock-hours to complete. Credit may be awarded in increments based upon the amount of time a course or subject is offered and generally requires to complete. Individual students may be awarded credit based upon demonstrated knowledge of the content of a course or subject, regardless of the amount of time spent by the student in the course or subject.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-32. Performance and quality criteria. (a) Each school shall be assigned its accreditation status based upon the extent to which the school has met the performance and quality criteria established by the state board in this regulation.

(b) The performance criteria shall be as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this regulation, having met the percentage prescribed by the state board of students performing at or above the proficient level on state assessments or having increased overall student achievement by a percentage prescribed by the state board;

(2) having 95% or more of all students and 95% or more of each student subgroup take the state assessments; this should be percent, but since taken directly from the law, leave as is in the law.

(3) having an attendance rate equal to or greater than that prescribed by the state board; and

(4) for high schools, having a graduation rate equal to or greater than that prescribed by the state board.

(c) The quality criteria shall consist of the following quality measures, which shall be required to be in place at each school:

(1) A school improvement plan that includes a results-based staff development plan;

(2) an external technical assistance team;

(3) locally determined assessments that are aligned with the state standards;

(4) formal training for teachers regarding the state assessments and curriculum standards;

(5) 100% of the teachers assigned to teach in those areas assessed by the state or described as core academic subjects by the United States department of education, and 95% or more of all other faculty, fully certified for the positions they hold;

(6) policies that meet the requirements of S.B.R. 91-31-34;

(7) local graduation requirements that include at least those requirements imposed by the state board;

(8) curricula that allow each student to meet the Regents qualified admissions requirements and the state scholarship program;

(9) programs and services to support student learning and growth at both the elementary and secondary levels, including the following:

(A) Computer literacy;

(B) counseling services;

(C) fine arts;

(D) language arts;

(E) library services;

(F) mathematics;

(G) physical education, which shall include instruction in health and human sexuality;

(H) science;

(I) services for students with special learning needs; and

(J) history and government. Each local board of education shall include in its history and government curriculum, within one of the grades seven through 12, a course of instruction in Kansas history and government. The course of instruction shall be offered for at least nine consecutive weeks. The local board of education shall waive this requirement for any student who transfers into the district at a grade level above that in which the course is taught;

(10) programs and services to support student learning and growth at the secondary level, including the following:

(A) Business;

(B) family and consumer science;

(C) foreign language; and

(D) industrial and technical education; and

(11) local policies ensuring compliance with other accreditation regulations and state education laws.

(d) If the grade configuration of a school does not include any of the grades included in the state assessment program, the school shall use an assessment that is aligned with the state standards.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-33. Data submission. Each school shall provide to the state department of education information concerning each of the following, upon request:

- (a) Qualifications of the school's teachers;
- (b) student attendance;
- (c) the number of high school students who graduate; and
- (d) any other data requested by the state board.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-34. Local board of education requirements. (a) General. Each local board of education shall ensure that each school meets the requirements of this regulation.

(b) Staff.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in filling positions for which a license or certificate is issued by the state board, each school district shall employ persons who hold licenses or certificates with specific endorsements for the positions held.

(2) If a teacher holding an appropriate license or certificate is not available, the school district shall use a substitute teacher holding a valid Kansas teacher or administrator license or certificate at any level or in any field or subject. A school district shall not allow any person holding a Kansas teaching license or certificate to substitute teach for more than 125 days in the same assignment.

(3) If a substitute teacher holding a valid Kansas teacher or administrator license or certificate is not available, the school district shall use a substitute teacher holding a valid Kansas substitute teaching license or certificate. A school district shall not allow a person holding a substitute teaching license or certificate to teach for more than 90 days in the same assignment.

(4) If a substitute teacher holding a valid Kansas substitute teaching license or certificate is not available, the school district shall use a person who holds a baccalaureate degree and an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate. A school district shall not allow a person who holds a baccalaureate degree and an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate to teach for more than 30 days in the same assignment.

(5) (A) If a person holding a baccalaureate degree and an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate is not available, the school district shall use a person who has been licensed or certified by the state board as an emergency substitute teacher. A school district shall not allow any person who does not hold a baccalaureate degree to teach for more than fifteen days in the same assignment or more than 60 days in a semester.

(B) If a local board of education documents that there is an insufficient supply of substitute teachers, the board may appeal to the commissioner of education for authority to allow individuals holding an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate to continue to teach for an additional length of time that shall not exceed a total of 93 days in a school year.

(6) If the state board of education has declared a time of emergency, any person holding a five-year substitute teaching license or certificate or an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate with a baccalaureate degree may teach for the duration of the time of emergency in a position made vacant by reason of the emergency.

(7) Each school shall report the name of each licensed or certified staff member on the personnel report or the supplemental personnel report required by the state board. Each licensed or certified personnel staff change that occurs between September 15 and the end of the school year shall be reported on a form prescribed by the state board within 30 days after the staff change.

(c) Minimum enrollment. Each elementary school shall have an enrollment of 10 or more students on September 20 to remain eligible for accreditation.

(d) Student credit. Each school, through the local board of education, shall have a written policy specifying that the credit of any pupil transferring from an accredited school shall be accepted.

(e) Records retention. Each school shall permanently retain records relating to each student's academic performance, attendance, and activities.

(f) Interscholastic athletics.

(1) A local board of education shall not allow any student below the sixth grade level to participate in interscholastic athletics.

(2) A local board of education may allow any student at the sixth grade level or higher to participate in interscholastic athletics.

(3) If a local board of education allows students at the sixth grade level to participate in interscholastic athletics, the local board of education shall comply with the guidelines adopted by the state board.

(4) A local board of education may join the Kansas state high school activities association and participate under its rules. A local board of education that does not join that association shall comply with guidelines for interscholastic athletics adopted by the state board.

(g) Athletic practice.

(1) Any elementary or middle school that includes any of the grades six through nine may conduct athletic practice during the school day only at times when one or more elective academic courses or a study period is offered to students.

(2) A high school shall not conduct athletic practice during the school day, and athletic practice shall not be counted for credit or as a part of the school term.

(3) A school shall neither offer credit for athletic practice nor count athletic practice as a physical education course.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-35. Graduation requirements. (a) Each local board of education shall adopt a written policy specifying that pupils are eligible for graduation only upon completion of at least the following requirements:

(1) Four units of English language arts, which shall include reading, writing, literature, communication, and grammar. The building administrator may waive up to one unit of this requirement if the administrator determines that a pupil can profit more by taking another subject;

(2) three units of history and government, which shall include world history; United States history; United States government, including the Constitution of the United States; concepts of economics and geography; and, except as otherwise provided in S.B.R. 91-31-32, a course of instruction in Kansas history and government;

(3) three units of science, which shall include physical, biological, and earth and space science concepts and which shall include at least one unit as a laboratory course;

(4) three units of mathematics, including algebraic and geometric concepts;

(5) one unit of physical education, which shall include health and which may include safety, first aid, or physiology. This requirement shall be waived if the school district is provided with either of the following:

(A) A statement by a licensed physician that a pupil is mentally or physically incapable of participating in a regular or modified physical education program; or

(B) a statement, signed by a lawful custodian of the pupil, indicating that the requirement is contrary to the religious teachings of the pupil;

(6) one unit of fine arts, which may include art, music, dance, theatre, forensics, and other similar studies selected by a local board of education; and

(7) six units of elective courses.

(b) A minimum of 21 units of credit shall be required for graduation.

(c) Any local board of education may increase the number of units of credit required for graduation. Any additional requirements of the local board of education that increase the number of units of credit required for graduation shall apply to those students who will enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of the additional requirement.

(d) Unless more stringent requirements are specified by existing local policy, the graduation requirements established by this regulation shall apply to those students who enter the ninth grade in the school year following the effective date of this regulation and to each subsequent class of students.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-36. Technical assistance teams. (a) Each school shall select an external technical assistance team, which shall be approved by the local board of education. Each team shall be comprised of two or more people who are not affiliated with the school. The school shall determine the number of onsite visits to be made by this team.

(b) If a school is accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited, the school shall be assigned a state technical assistance team to assist the school in meeting the performance and quality criteria established by the state board. The state technical assistance team shall determine the number of onsite visits that the team needs to make to the school. This team shall remain assigned to the school until the school either attains accredited status or is not accredited.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-37. Accreditation recommendation and appeal. (a) A written recommendation regarding the accreditation status to be assigned to each school shall be prepared annually by the state department of education. Each recommendation shall include a statement of the reasons for the recommendation.

(b) The state department of education's recommendation shall be submitted to the local board of education of the school district in which the school is located.

(c) If the local board of education disagrees with the recommendation, the local board may file an appeal with the commissioner of education within fifteen days after receipt of the recommendation. Except in regard to a recommendation for accredited on improvement, the local board of education may raise any issue and present any additional information that is relevant to its appeal. If the recommendation is for accredited on improvement, an appeal may be filed only if the local board of education believes that a statistical or clerical error has been made in regard to the recommendation.

(d) (1) If the local board of education files an appeal, a consultation shall be ordered by the commissioner and shall be conducted by an appeal team appointed by the commissioner.

(2) The appeal team shall consult with one or more staff members who made the recommendation and one or more representatives of the local board of education.

(3) If there is agreement on the recommendation following the appeal, the appeal team shall forward the accreditation recommendation to the commissioner for submission to the state board.

(4) If there is not agreement on a recommendation following the appeal, the appeal team shall request the commissioner to appoint a hearing officer to conduct a hearing and forward an accreditation recommendation to the state board.

(e) Each recommendation for accreditation status shall be acted upon by the state board.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-38. Accreditation status. (a) Each school shall be classified as one of the following:

- (1) Accredited;
- (2) accredited on improvement;
- (3) conditionally accredited; or
- (4) not accredited.

(b) Each school that has accredited status from the state board on June 30, 2005 shall retain its accreditation status until that status is replaced with a status specified in subsection (a) of this regulation.

(c) Each school that seeks initial accreditation by the state board shall be designated as a candidate school and shall be granted accredited status until the school's status can be determined using the criteria prescribed in S.B.R. 91-31-32.

(d) If a school is accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited, the school shall develop and implement a corrective action plan approved by the state technical assistance team assigned to the school and shall implement any corrective action required by the state board.

(e) Each school that is accredited on improvement and that fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria in regard to all students assessed or four or more of the quality criteria shall be classified as conditionally accredited.

(f) Any school that is accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited may attain the status of accredited or accredited on improvement, respectively, by meeting, for two consecutive years, the criteria for that accreditation status.

(g) Each school that is conditionally accredited and that, for a fifth consecutive year, fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria or four or more of the quality criteria shall be classified as not accredited.

(h) If a school is not accredited, sanctions shall be applied.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-39. Rewards. (a) Each school that attains the status of accredited shall receive from the state board a letter of accreditation and a press release announcing that school's accreditation status.

(b) Any school that attains the status of accredited may be recognized in additional ways by the state board.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-40. Sanctions. One or more of the following sanctions may be applied by the state board to a school that is conditionally accredited or not accredited:

(a) An order that district personnel or resources be reassigned or reallocated within the district by the local board of education;

(b) an order that the local board of education hire one or more designated persons to assist the school in making the changes necessary to improve student performance;

(c) a recommendation to the legislature that it approve a reduction in state funding to the local school district by an amount that will be added to the local property tax imposed by the local board of education;

(d) a recommendation that the legislature abolish or restructure the local district;

(e) a letter of notification and a press release announcing the accreditation status of the school; or

(f) other action, as deemed appropriate by the state board.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-41. Public disclosure. At least once each year, each school shall notify the local board of education, parents, and community of the school's accreditation status and the progress that the school has made in school improvement. Within 60 days after being notified by the state board of the final determination of the school's accreditation status, each school shall disclose the accreditation results, including any performance or quality criteria that are not met, to the local board of education, parents, and community. The school shall make all notices and disclosures available in the primary languages of the community.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

91-31-42. Waiver. (a) Any school may request a waiver from one or more accreditation requirements imposed by the state board. Each request for a waiver shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The school shall make the request, in writing, to the commissioner of education.

(2) The chief administrative officer of the school shall sign the request. If the request is made by a public school, both the superintendent and the president of the local school board shall sign the request.

(3) In the request, the school shall state the specific requirement or requirements for which the school is requesting a waiver and shall indicate how the granting of the waiver would enhance improvement at the school.

(b) Within 30 days after the receipt of a request for a waiver, a recommendation shall be made by the commissioner of education to the state board to either grant or deny the request.

(c) The request and the recommendation from the commissioner of education shall be considered by the state board, and the final decision on whether to grant or deny the request shall be made by the state board.

This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2005. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective July 1, 2005.)

ACRONYMS

AYP - Adequate Yearly Progress

CETE – Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, Kansas University

ETAT – External Technical Assistance Team

FAPE – Free, Appropriate Public Education

IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

KAR – Kansas Administrative Regulations

KSBE – Kansas State Board of Education

KSDE – Kansas State Department of Education

KSHSAA – Kansas State High School Activities Association

LEA - Local Education Agencies

NCA – North Central Accreditation

OSEP – Office of Special Education Programs

QPA – Quality Performance Accreditation

RBSD – Results-based Staff Development

SIP – School Improvement Plan

SPP – State Performance Plan

APR – Annual Performance Plan

SEA – State Education Agencies

SAR – Staff Assignment Report

STAT – Appointed State Technical Assistance Team

GLOSSARY

Accreditation

The process of assigning a status to schools based upon minimum performance and quality criteria established by the state board.

Accreditation appeal

An appeal filed by a local board of education to the commissioner of education if it disagrees with the accreditation recommendation made by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

Accreditation criteria

Minimum student performance standards and school quality measures used to determine the accredited status of schools.

Accreditation performance criteria

See **performance criteria**.

Accreditation quality criteria

See **quality criteria**.

Accreditation recommendation

An annual written recommendation prepared by the KSDE regarding the accreditation status assigned to each school.

Accreditation status

The four levels of school accreditation status possible based upon meeting or not meeting the minimum quality criteria and performance criteria established by the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE). These four levels are:

Accredited

The accreditation status assigned to a school that meets the minimum performance and quality criteria established by the KSBE.

Accredited on improvement

The status assigned to a school that for two consecutive years

- fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria applicable to the school;
- has a prescribed percentage of students in one or more student subgroups (i.e., economic disadvantage, race/ethnicity, disability, and limited English proficiency) that fails to meet one or more of the performance criteria applicable to the school; and
- fails to meet three or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

Conditionally accredited

The status assigned to a school that for three consecutive years

- has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments; or
- fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

Not accredited

The status assigned to a school that for five consecutive years

- has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments; or
- fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

Adequate yearly progress (AYP)

The minimum percentage prescribed by the state board of students performing at or above the proficient level on state assessments.

Aligned assessments

Different assessments that measure the same standards of performance (knowledge or skills) at the same grade, course or developmental levels, but that are not necessarily the same type of assessments.

Appeal

Any issue and any additional information presented by a local board of education when that board of education disagrees with an accreditation recommendation. If the recommendation is for accredited on improvement, an appeal may be filed only if the local board of education believes a statistical or clerical error has been made in regard to the recommendation. See also **accreditation recommendation**.

Appeal team

The group of individuals appointed by the commissioner of education who resolve an accreditation recommendation appeal. See also **hearing officer**.

Attendance rate

The rate calculated by dividing the average daily attendance (ADA) by the average daily membership (ADM).

Average daily attendance (ADA)

A school's average daily attendance calculated by (1) adding together the number of students attending each day that the school was in session during the school year, and (2) dividing that total by the number of days school was in session with students in class.

Average daily membership (ADM)

A school's average daily membership calculated by (1) adding together the number of students attending each day plus the number absent each day that the school was in session during the school year, and (2) dividing that total by the number of days school was in session with students in class.

Candidate school

A school that seeks initial accreditation by the state board.

Carnegie unit

A measure of credit that may be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of all of the required work for a particular course or subject. See also **credit, unit of credit, student credit**.

Conditionally accredited

The status assigned to a school that for three consecutive years

- has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments; or
- fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

Confidence intervals

A statistical tool used to assure that a school did or did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) because of student performance rather than because of random error.

Core academic subjects

Those areas assessed by the state or described as such by the United States Department of Education.

Corrective action plan

The plan a school accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited is required to develop and implement. The corrective action plan must be approved by the state technical assistance team (STAT) assigned to the school.

Credit

A measure of credit that may be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of all of the required work for a particular course or subject. See also **unit of credit, Carnegie unit, student credit**.

Curriculum standards

Statements adopted by the state board of what students should know and be able to do in specific content areas.

Emergency substitute teaching license/certificate

The license held by a person who has a baccalaureate degree and who serves as a substitute teacher when a licensed substitute teacher is not available.

Endorsements

Components of a teaching license that indicate the specific subject(s) or content area(s) an individual is qualified to teach according to state regulations.

External technical assistance team (ETAT)

A group of persons selected by a school for the purpose of advising school staff on issues of school improvement, curricula and instruction, student performance, and other accreditation matters.

Graduation rate

The same group or cohort of students that started in the ninth grade year and who graduate from high school in the standard four-years. Students who have received GEDs and transfers are not included in the group. Dropouts are included in calculating graduation rate.

Graduation requirements

A policy written by the local board of education of the minimum total units of credit students must complete to be eligible for graduation. Although the state requires 21 units, local boards may require more.

Hearing officer

The individual appointed by the commissioner of education to conduct a hearing and forward an accreditation recommendation to the state board if there is not agreement on an accreditation recommendation following an appeal. See also **appeal team**.

Kansas Administrative Regulations (KAR)

The administrative regulations adopted by state agencies (such as the Kansas State Board of Education [KSBE]) pursuant to legal authority.

Kansas curriculum standards

Statements adopted by the state board of what students should know and be able to do in specific content areas.

Kansas state assessments

The assessments that the state board administers in order to measure student learning within the Kansas curriculum standards for mathematics, reading, science, history and government, and writing.

License or certificate

The official recognition by the KSBE that an individual has met state requirements and is, therefore, approved to practice as a duly certified/licensed professional.

Locally determined assessments

Assessments that are locally developed or purchased and that are aligned with the state standards.

Minimum enrollment

The requirement that each elementary school have an enrollment of 10 or more students on September 20 to remain eligible for accreditation.

Not accredited

The status assigned to a school that for five consecutive years

- has a prescribed percentage of all students assessed that scores below the proficient level on the state assessments; or
- fails to meet four or more of the quality criteria applicable to the school.

Onsite visit

A visit at a school by either the school's external technical assistance team or a state technical assistance team.

Participation rate

The rate determined by dividing the number of students administered a state assessment(s) by the number of students enrolled on that day.

Performance criteria

The performance criteria that must be met by each school for accreditation. These include

- having the percentage prescribed by the state board of students performing at or above the proficient level on state assessments; or
- having increased overall student achievement by a percentage prescribed by the state board;
- having 95 percent or more of all students and 95 percent or more of each student subgroup take the state assessments;
- having an attendance rate equal to or greater than that prescribed by the state board; and
- for high schools, having a graduation rate equal to or greater than that prescribed by the state board.

Performance levels on state assessments

The measures that specify individual student performance and building-level performance on the state assessments. The current performance levels are: "Exemplary," "Advanced," "Proficient," "Basic," and "Unsatisfactory."

Personnel report

The report required by the state board of the names of each licensed or certified staff member in a school.

Primary languages of the community

The principal or dominant languages used and understood within a school's community.

Public disclosure

The annual notification by each school to the local board of education, parents, and community of the school's accreditation status and the progress the school has made in school improvement.

Quality criteria

The eleven quality measures required to be in place at each school for accreditation. These include

- a school improvement plan and results-based staff development plan;
- an external technical assistance team;
- locally determined assessments;
- formal training for teachers regarding state assessments and curriculum standards;
- fully qualified staff teaching core academic areas;
- 100 percent of the teachers assigned to teach in those areas assessed by the state or described as core academic subjects by the United States Department of Education, and 95 percent or more of all other faculty, fully certified for the positions they hold;
- local graduation requirements;
- curricula allowing each student to meet qualified admissions requirements and state scholarship program (Kansas scholars curriculum);
- programs and services to support student learning at the elementary and secondary levels; and
- local policies ensuring compliance with other accreditation regulations and state education laws.

Records retention

The permanent keeping of records relating to each student's academic performance, attendance, and activities.

Regents' Qualified Admissions

The requirements a student must meet to qualify for admission to any of the six Kansas regents' universities.

Restructure local district

One form of applied sanctions recommended by the legislature to the state board when a school is conditionally accredited or not accredited.

Results-based staff development plan

A staff development plan focused on the results of staff development for individual educators, students' learning, schools, districts, and other education organizations.

Rewards

A letter of accreditation and a press release announcing that school's accreditation status; or some additional recognition given to a school by the state board upon that school receiving accredited status.

Sanctions

One or more requirements applied by the state board to a school that is conditionally accredited or not accredited.

School

An organizational unit that, for the purposes of school improvement, constitutes a logical sequence of elements that may be structured as grade levels, developmental levels, or instructional levels. (See regulation 91-31-31. Definitions. (i))

School improvement plan

A multi-year (five years or less) plan developed by a school that states specific actions for achieving continuous improvement in student performance.

School term

The official span of time a school is in session.

Staff

A group of employees, including teachers, administrators, instructional and non-instructional support personnel, charged with working together toward the goals of the school and district.

Standards

Statements adopted by the state board of what students should know and be able to do in specific content areas.

Standards of excellence

The expectations for academic achievement that the state board has set for Kansas schools.

State assessments

The assessments that the state board administers in order to measure student learning within the Kansas curriculum standards for mathematics, reading, science, history and government, and writing.

State technical assistance team (STAT)

A group of persons appointed by the state department of education to assist schools in meeting the performance and quality criteria established by the state board.

Student credit

The credit a student is awarded for satisfactory completion of a course or subject that is offered by a school. Each school is required to have a written policy specifying that the credit of any pupil transferring from an accredited school shall be accepted. See also **unit of credit**.

Student performance

How all students and student subgroups in a school perform on state assessments.

Student subgroup

Those students within a school who, for monitoring purposes, are classified by a common factor, including economic disadvantage, race, ethnicity, disability, and limited English proficiency.

Substitute teaching license or certificate

A license issued to an individual that allows access to practice as a substitute teacher. See also **license or certificate**.

Technical assistance teams

A group of persons selected by a school for the purpose of advising school staff on issues of school improvement, curricula and instruction, student performance, and other accreditation matters. See also **external technical assistance team**.

Unit of credit

A measure of credit that may be awarded to a student for satisfactory completion of all of the required work for a particular course or subject. See also **credit, Carnegie unit, student credit**.

Waiver

The document that evidences a school's release from one or more of the state board's school accreditation or teacher licensure requirements. Any school may request a waiver from one or more of the requirements by making a written request to the Kansas commissioner of education. Waivers can only be granted by the state board.