

# **KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**



## **Annual Report**

**July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**

Early Childhood Special Education & Title Services

Kansas State Department of Education

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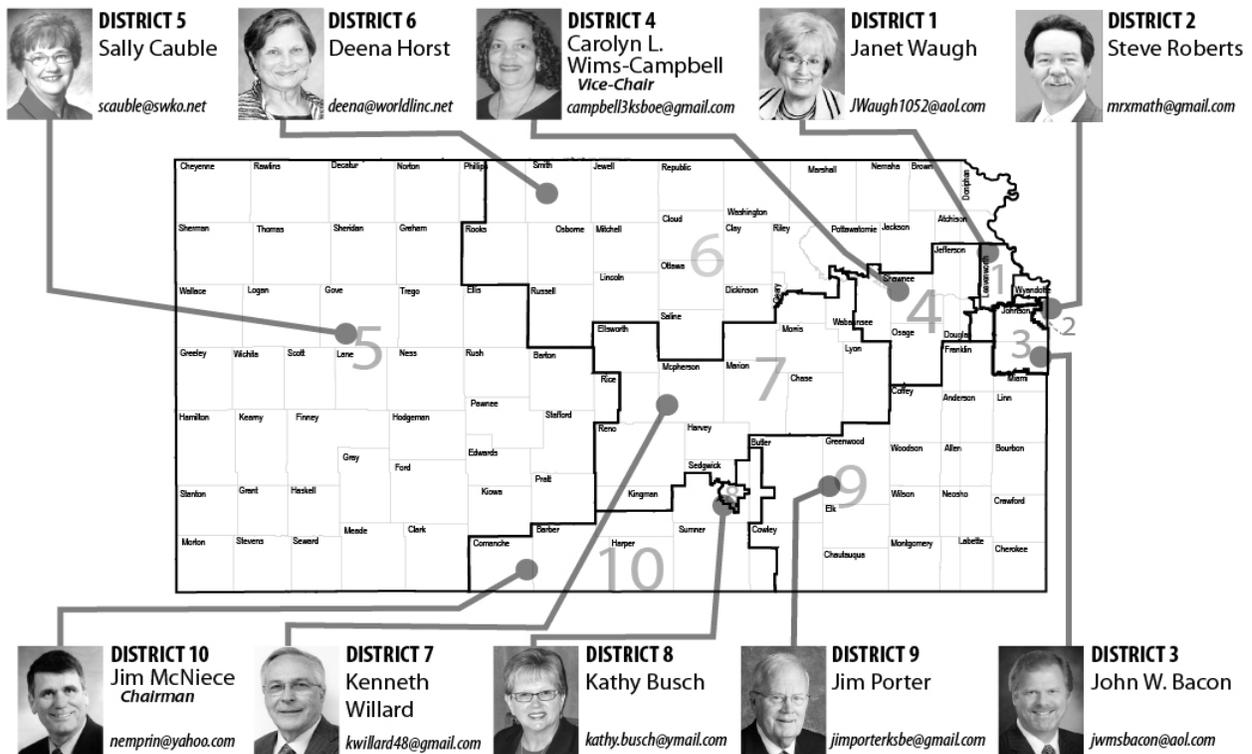
January 2017

Great students Great teachers Great leaders Great citizens

The mission of the Kansas State Board of Education is to prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents. To accomplish this mission the State Board has identified five goals. They are as follows:

- Provide a flexible delivery system to meet our students' changing needs.
- Provide an effective educator in every classroom.
- Ensure effective, visionary leaders in every school.
- Promote and encourage best practices for early childhood programs.
- Develop active communication and partnerships with families, communities, business stakeholders, constituents and policy makers.

Adopted Mar. 2013



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JULY 2015

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## Secretary's Report

The overarching focus of special education services in Kansas is to improve outcomes for students with exceptionalities and their families. Services for students with exceptionalities in Kansas are continuously improving because of the dedication and commitment of many exemplary teachers and administrators who are supported by concerned and invested parents who work in partnership with the districts. Another Kansas asset, often overlooked because of their work behind the scenes of Kansas education, is the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The primary motivation for individuals to accept appointments to SEAC is the focus on quality improvement in the Kansas education system, particularly as it relates to students with exceptionalities. The SEAC members voluntarily meet on a regular basis, study issues of significance, provide a representative advisory function, and advise the Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title Services (ECSETS) team and Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) on matters of concern regarding special education. This report summarizes the activity and accomplishments of SEAC for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

SEAC has represented its constituencies well during the past year and has been productively engaged in fulfilling its legal commitments and mission on behalf of students. SEAC's 2015 – 2016 accomplishments are wide ranging. To summarize, SEAC has been involved in these activities of importance:

- Ongoing collaboration between SEAC and the Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
- Provided feedback to KSDE Early Childhood Special Education and Title (ECSET) Services Team on the Annual Performance Report submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Provided feedback to KSDE ECSETS team on the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) on the following areas:
  - Support to Early Career Special Education Teachers
  - Implementation of effective Co-teaching practices across districts
  - Expansion of Tertiary Behavior supports within Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS)
- Provided feedback to the KSDE ECSETS team on the implementation of the Kansas Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Provided feedback to the KSDE ECSETS team on the technical assistance provided to districts in the following areas:
  - Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS)
  - Kansas State Board of Education regulations - Emergency Safety Interventions
- Provided feedback to KSDE ECSETS team on the implementation of Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN)
- Provided forum for public comment on disability related issues
- Two council members represented SEAC by serving on the Kansas legislative task force for Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI) and provided feedback on discussion at SEAC meetings.

SEAC serves a valuable role in representing the stakeholders in Kansas regarding special education services. There is no question that because of SEAC's investment in the future, students birth through 21 have improved outcomes. The State of Kansas is fortunate to have an active and involved SEAC.

Colleen Riley,  
Director Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title Services  
Secretary of the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

## **Introduction**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) held six meetings during the 2015 – 2016 school year. The January meeting was a two-day meeting and included members of the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE).

SEAC advises the Kansas State Board of Education in six key areas as required by the regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and by Kansas statutes. Those areas include:

- Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children and youth with exceptionalities; and
- Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

### **Kansas Special Education Advisory Council**

The major responsibilities of the council are to advise, consult and provide recommendations to the Kansas State Board of Education regarding matters concerning special education services. The SEAC is composed of individuals in, or concerned with, the education of children with exceptionalities. The council performs such duties as specified by IDEA and as outlined in the Kansas SEAC Bylaws.

The primary role of the council is to advise and assist the KSDE to achieve excellence, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. As such, it is committed to representing individuals with diverse and changing educational needs. This responsibility leads the SEAC to support the vision and mission of KSBE, the Division of Learning Services (DLS) and the Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title Services team.

## **Kansas State Board of Education Vision**

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

### **Mission**

To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

### **Motto**

Kansans CAN!

### **SEAC Goal**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for all individuals in Kansas.

### **SEAC Beliefs**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to lifelong learning. SEAC believes that:

- Partnerships increase collaboration for better services.
- Visionary leadership is essential for appropriate services to meet the needs of all students.
- Innovation is essential to the process of lifelong learning.
- All child service systems must be provided in an integrated and collaborative manner.
- Education is an evolving process that requires innovation, continuous growth, and evaluation.
- The needs of individuals in a diverse community must be met.

## **Council Membership**

The 2015 – 2016 SEAC was composed of nineteen members and one non-voting ex-officio member, all of whom are concerned with the education of children and youth with exceptionalities and includes the state director. SEAC members include individuals with disabilities and/or parents of children with exceptionalities. The 2015 - 2016 membership included:



**Special Education Advisory Council  
FY 2015-16**

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Appointment Expires</b>
Dr. Marcy Aycock *	Parent of a child with Giftedness	<a href="mailto:marcellakaye@yahoo.com">marcellakaye@yahoo.com</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Stacie Clarkson	Department of Corrections - Adult	<a href="mailto:stacie.clarkson@greenbush.org">stacie.clarkson@greenbush.org</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Amy Dejmal	Other state agency involved in financing or delivery of services to exceptional children	<a href="mailto:adejmal@usd405.com">adejmal@usd405.com</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Tina Gibson	General Education Teacher	<a href="mailto:tjgibson@usd345.com">tjgibson@usd345.com</a>	6/30/2018 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Lesli Girard **	Parent Training and Information Center	<a href="mailto:lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org">lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org</a>	Ex-officio
Rebekah Helget *	Administrator of Exceptional Programs	<a href="mailto:rebekahhelget@usd475.org">rebekahhelget@usd475.org</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Debora Howser	LEA Official	<a href="mailto:deborah@usd383.org">deborah@usd383.org</a>	6/30/2018 (2nd term)
Barbara Kempf *	Foster Care Agency	<a href="mailto:bkempf@kvc.org">bkempf@kvc.org</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer *	Department of Corrections - Juvenile	<a href="mailto:kko@nkesc.org">kko@nkesc.org</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Karen Kroh	Private Schools	<a href="mailto:kkroh@archkckcs.org">kkroh@archkckcs.org</a>	6/30/2016 (2nd term)
Joan Macy *	State Official	<a href="mailto:jmacy@kssdb.org">jmacy@kssdb.org</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Judy Martin	Homeless Children	<a href="mailto:martinj@usd231.com">martinj@usd231.com</a>	6/30/2016 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Marvin Miller <b>(Chair Elect)</b> *	Parent of a child or person with a disability	<a href="mailto:mjmillier@abilityed.com">mjmillier@abilityed.com</a>	6/30/2017 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Diane Plunkett *	IHE Special Education	<a href="mailto:dplunkett@kckcc.edu">dplunkett@kckcc.edu</a>	6/30/2018 (2nd term)
Dr. Matthew Ramsey <b>(Chair)</b>	Related Services	<a href="mailto:mramsey@benedictine.edu">mramsey@benedictine.edu</a>	6/30/2016 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Dr. Joan Robbins <b>(Past Chair)</b> *	LEA Official	<a href="mailto:jrobbins02@bluevalleyk12.org">jrobbins02@bluevalleyk12.org</a>	6/30/2017 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Sarah Schaffer *	Parent of a child or person with a disability	<a href="mailto:sarah.schaffer@washburn.edu">sarah.schaffer@washburn.edu</a>	6/30/2016 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

Council Member	Representation	Email	Appointment Expires
Dr. Robb Scott	Vocational, community or business organization concerned with provision of transition services	<a href="mailto:rbscott2@fhsu.edu">rbscott2@fhsu.edu</a>	6/30/2016 (1st term)
Bryan Wilson	Local Education Official	<a href="mailto:bwilson@usd259.net">bwilson@usd259.net</a>	6/30/2016 (2nd term)
Deb Young *	Parent of a child or person with a disability	<a href="mailto:deb.young@greenbush.org">deb.young@greenbush.org</a>	6/30/2018 (1st term)

Secretary to SEAC: Colleen Riley, Director of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title Services, KSDE

\* These representatives fulfill the majority requirement; persons who are individuals with a disability and/or parent of children with a disability and who may represent another required area.

\*\* Non-voting ex-officio member.

## Council Leadership

The chair for the 2015-2016 year was Dr. Matthew Ramsey. He was unanimously elected to fulfill the obligations of the chair at the April 2015 council meeting.

## Operational Standards

The SEAC's 2015-2016 meeting schedule was as follows:

Meeting Date	Location
July 28, 2015	Wichita Hyatt
September 15, 2015	Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)
October 7, 2015	Conference Call
November 17, 2015	KASB
January 12-13, 2016	KSDE
April 12, 2016	KSDE

The SEAC is required to conduct a minimum of four regular meetings per IDEA statute. The 2015-2016 year exceeded this standard by holding six meetings, one of which was a two-day meeting which included meeting with members of the Kansas State Board of Education. Official minutes of the meetings were kept, reviewed at each following meeting for accuracy, and posted on the KSDE Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services team website at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=561>.

A public comment period was offered at each regular SEAC meeting, and written public comment was accepted throughout the year.

## Council Accomplishments

SEAC members represented the council at the annual Council for Exceptional Children Conference, the Kansas Multi - Tier System of Supports Symposium, The Annual Kansas Summer Leadership Conference for Special Education Administrators, The Tri-State Law Conference, and the KSDE Annual Conference. SEAC added a member representing students with a disability to the membership of the council. This three-year position is a voting member position and is permanently established as part of the Kansas SEAC. Dr. Marvin Miller and Dr. Joan Robbins represented SEAC as members of the statewide task force set up by the 2015 Kansas Legislature to study issues directly related to Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI). Both members provided updates to the SEAC as well as the Kansas State Board of Education regarding the ESI task force. Dr. Marvin Miller supported the annual Families Together Conference by providing SEAC materials and networking with participants. The SEAC collaborated with other stakeholders to support Senate Bill 323 which made specific recommendations for language acquisition and language assessment for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**Special Education Advisory Council  
Summary of Activities by Priority Area  
2015-2016**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advise the KSDE ECSET team so Kansas has an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for students with exceptionalities by:

- **Priority Area 1: Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;**

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
1.1 Increase awareness and understanding of provision of services from the public perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate Bill 323 Language Assessment Bill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> <li>• Public Comment</li> <li>• Written Testimony</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
1.2 Promote the role of SEAC functions to the legislature, other advisory councils, committees, parents, and organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address council membership to include student with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEP Meetings</li> <li>• Public forums</li> <li>• Statewide projects</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Conferences</li> <li>• TASN</li> <li>• KDHE</li> <li>• SICC</li> <li>• KPIRC</li> <li>• Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 October 7, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
1.3 Evaluate the working conditions of special education teachers in Kansas. Study relevant issues including licensure and endorsement and assist with dissemination of related information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Teacher Shortage by Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPDG</li> <li>• KSDE, TLA and ECSETS teams</li> <li>• E-Mentoring Project</li> <li>• TASN</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

- **Priority Area 2: Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;**

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
2.1 Study and provide comment on proposed federal and state laws and regulations and assist in implementation of changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary and Secondary Education Act proposed regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel Report</li> <li>• KSDE</li> <li>• Testimony</li> <li>• Public Comment</li> <li>• Stakeholder Meetings</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
2.2 Emergency Safety Interventions (including Seclusion and Restraint) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in ESI Task Force by Joan Robbins and Marvin Miller</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ KAN-DIS Data</li> <li>▪ Personnel Reports</li> <li>▪ Public Comment</li> <li>▪ Stakeholder Meetings</li> <li>▪ Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC)</li> <li>▪ KASB</li> <li>▪ Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> <li>▪ KPIRC</li> <li>▪ Parents</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

▪ **Priority Area 3: Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;**

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
3.1 Provide oversight of the implementation of federal and state special education laws and regulations to ensure Kansas has effective systems in place to monitor compliance and support improved achievement and outcomes for children & youth with exceptionalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data for SPP Indicators</li> <li>• Data and review of due process hearings, mediation and formal complaints</li> <li>• Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS) Data</li> <li>• KAN-DIS</li> <li>• TASN</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
3.2 Assist in the dissemination of information in the area of early childhood and secondary transition to help ensure Kansas can demonstrate compliance with IDEA 2004 and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SICC</li> <li>• SEAC Members</li> <li>• TASN</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
3.3 Analyze the data on the educational progress of students with exceptionalities and make recommendations to enhance their educational program, services, and achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC Council Member reports</li> <li>• APR/SPP Data               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Graduation/drop-out rates</li> <li>○ EC outcomes</li> <li>○ State Assessment Data</li> <li>○ Suspension/Expulsion Data</li> <li>○ APR/SPP Data                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Post-secondary outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Data</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016
3.4 As stakeholders, assist in the interpretation of Kansas data in reporting to the public and U. S. Department of Education (OSEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APR and SPP Data</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

▪ **Priority Area 4: Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;**

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
4.1 As a result of the onsite focused monitoring conducted by OSEP, Kansas had to make changes to the KIAS in the areas of secondary transition and the review of updated data as interpreted by OSEP in Memo 09-02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KIAS</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

▪ **Priority Area 5: Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children and youth with exceptionalities;**

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
5.1 Enhance school-family-community partnerships by encouraging and developing coordinated programs and/or services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by TASN</li> <li>• Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> <li>• KPIRC</li> <li>• Family Voices</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>	<b>Action Completed</b>
5.2 Improve communication & collaboration between SEAC & SICC Councils to enhance services to children & families in Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SICC</li> <li>• Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> <li>• Family Voices</li> </ul>	November 17, 2015
5.3 Promote and enhance the blending of services between special and general education, including federal, state, and local programs (Title I, Special Ed.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KSDE</li> <li>• KDHE</li> <li>• TASN</li> <li>• KPIRC</li> <li>• Families Together, Inc. (PTI)</li> <li>• Family Voices</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

▪ **Priority Area 6: Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.**

<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>	<b>Action Completed</b>
6.1 Enhance education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC Member Reports</li> <li>• Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)</li> <li>• Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)</li> </ul>	July 28, 2015 September 15, 2015 November 17, 2015 January 12-13, 2016 April 12, 2016

## **ACRONYMS**

ADA:	Americans with Disabilities Act
APR:	Annual Performance Report
CADRE:	Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution In Special Education (OSEP Project)
CCR:	College and Career Readiness
CEIS:	Coordinated Early Intervening Services
CWDs:	Children with Disabilities
DGB:	Data Governance Board
DLM:	Dynamic Learning Maps
ECO:	Early Childhood Outcomes Center
ECSETS:	Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services
ED or USDE:	U.S. Department of Education
EDEN:	Education Data Exchange Network
EDGAR:	Education Department General Administrative Regulations
EPC:	Education Program Consultants
ESEA:	Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1964
ESI:	Emergency Safety Interventions
ESSA:	Every Student Succeeds Act
FAPE:	Free & Appropriate Public Education
FERPA	Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
FR:	Federal Register
GAO:	Government Accountability Office or U.S. General Accounting Office
ICC:	Interagency Coordinating Council
IDEA:	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEE:	Independent Educational Evaluation
IEP:	Individualized Education Program
IHE:	Institution of Higher Education
JJA:	Juvenile Justice Authority
KAN-DIS:	Kansas Discipline Database
KASEA:	Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
KDHE:	Kansas Department of Health and Environment
KEEB:	Kansas Education Employment Board (TASN Project)
KESA	Kansas Education Systems Accreditation
KIAS:	Kansas Integrated Accountability System
KIDS:	Kansas Individual Data on Students
KIRC:	Kansas Instructional Resource Center (TASN Project)
KLFA:	Kansas Learning First Alliance
KLN:	Kansas Learning Network
KPIRC:	Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (TASN Project)
KSBE:	Kansas State Board of Education

### **ACRONYMS (Continued)**

KSDE:	Kansas State Department of Education
LEA:	Local Education Agency
LETRS:	Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling
LOD:	Levels of Determination
LRE:	Least Restrictive Environment
MOA:	Memorandum of Agreement
MOE:	Maintenance of Effort
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MTSS:	Multi-Tier System of Supports
NASDSE:	National Association of State Directors of Special Education
NASTID:	National Association of State Title I Directors
OCR:	Office of Civil Rights
OGC:	Office of General Counsel
OMB:	Office of Management and Budget
OSEP:	U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs
OSERS:	U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services
OWS:	Outcomes Web System
PBIS:	Positive Behavior Intervention Supports
PII:	Personally Identifiable Information
PTI:	Parent Training Information Center (Families Together)
RDA:	Results Driven Accountability
RFP:	Request for Proposal
RTI:	Response to Intervention
SEA:	State Education Agency
SEAC:	Special Education Advisory Council
SPDG:	State Personnel Development Grant
SPP:	State Performance Plan
SSIP:	State Systemic Improvement Plan
TASN:	IDEA Title VI-B: Kansas Technical Assistance System Network administered by KSDE
TIP:	Targeted Improvement Plan
TLA:	Teacher Licensure and Accreditation
UGG:	Uniform Grant Guidance