



An Individual Plan of Study (IPS) is one of the key outcomes that will be used to measure progress of the Kansas State Board of Education's new vision — Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

The Kansas State Department of Education in January 2014 asked the State Board of Education to recommend that all districts implement Individual Plans of Study to help Kansas students obtain a suitable vision of their path toward college and/or the workforce.

Last month, the State Board adopted an IPS focused on career interest as one of five outcomes that will be used to measure progress of the vision.

An IPS, handled correctly, can guide a student down the right career path and ensure a successful transition to postsecondary education and the workforce.

A student begins the IPS journey in middle school by taking a survey or assessment to help identify a career interest. Then a roadmap based on the student's interests and talents is developed in conjunction with the student and parents. The IPS includes graduation requirements, approved coursework for the student's educational and career goals and work-based learning experiences.

Each IPS is developed between the student, the student's counselor, teachers and family members. A student's IPS follows he or she through their school years.

The plan is reviewed preferably twice per year, and is revised as need.

Done correctly, an IPS is a beneficial tool for students and schools. However, if a school looks at an IPS as just a checklist, it won't be effective.

With career exploration and successful completion of an IPS, students should be on their way to making insightful and purposeful decisions about their career goals.

I believe this can be done. Together, Kansans Can achieve the State Board's vision.

Sincerely,

