



Welcome to the first KESA Newsletter!



KESA staff is excited about the start of the 2021-2022 school year! We are putting our efforts into trying to ensure better communication through a variety of different avenues. This newsletter is one new addition to our communication efforts.

KESA staff will be using this newsletter to update you on everything KESA. We hope that through this newsletter, information can be shared to all those involved in the accreditation process in your system. We understand there is a lot of information that comes from KSDE, but it is our hope to keep all KESA information in one easy to find spot!

From the Director:

Recently, our office has fielded questions regarding a "new KESA pilot". To clarify, beginning this Fall a few of the most recently accredited systems who are beginning a second cycle volunteered to engage in intentional professional learning opportunities. The intention is to align language across all school improvement processes supported by our agency. It is an opportunity for KSDE to obtain feedback relative to the overall continuous improvement model (data analysis, goal setting, strategy selection, strategy implementation, and strategy analysis), and consider a regional support model for all systems in the future.

Please always feel free to reach out to any of us, and we are happy to provide clarity and understanding. Mischel Miller





Say hello to the KESA Staff



Dr. Mischel Miller is the Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation. She came to KSDE three years ago from a position as Superintendent in the Vermillion School District. Although her title focuses on teacher licensure and accreditation, she also has the responsibility to oversee the work of higher education teacher preparation accreditation, as well as the Kansas Volunteer Commission. However, anyone that knows Mischel, knows that her passion is in providing direct support to systems.



Jeannette Nobo is the Assistant Director for Accreditation (KESA). She has been in this position for the last four years. Prior to that she was the Assistant Director for Curricular Standards. She has been at the KSDE for 35 years. She started as an equity and diversity consultant and coordinator utilizing that expertise to help create an accreditation system focused on continuous improvement rather than inputs. Throughout her tenure at KSDE she has also worked in the area of assessments and was at one time the Director of Professional Learning.



Myron Melton is the Coordinator for KESA. He began working in KESA one year ago. Myron came to work for KSDE four years ago after retiring as a building principal in the Lawrence School District. Prior to joining the KESA team Myron was on the KSDE Special Education and Title Services Team serving as a consultant for school mental health and social emotional learning.



John Girodat is an Education Program Consultant working on KESA. This is John's second tour of duty with KSDE, he previously worked on the CSAS team dealing with graduation and virtual schools. He has spent his entire career in education as a teacher, building level administrator, and consultant.



Ed Kalas is an Education Program Consultant in charge of Professional Learning and the Mentoring Program. He has been working at KSDE for almost one year. Ed comes to KSDE with a background in quality management, workforce development and accreditation.



Things to do before the next KESA Newsletter September/October 2021

Systems

GOAL	CHECK DONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Confirm your OVT Chair and Team member availability and contact information	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Contact OVT Chair to discuss your system improvement efforts and reacquaint them with your work	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Establish initial discussion of your OVT visit and secure a date. (OVT visit for year five systems should be completed no later than the end of March 2022; and end of May for all other systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Ensure your KESA Authenticated Application has the correct system and OVT chair contact information	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Ensure that you have specific, measurable goals and not just goal areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Communicate with and seek input from all your constituent groups during your accreditation journey	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Speak with your Building Leadership Teams about their goals and progress	<input type="checkbox"/>

Systems (cont'd)

GOAL	CHECK DONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Bring your District Leadership Team together to review and finalize your KESA improvement goals, progress and impact as evidenced by your data and improvement strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Attend the October KESA Update on October 12, 2021 from 9:00 – 10:00 (Registration information in this newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/>

OVT Chairs/Teams

GOAL	CHECK DONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Contact the district that you are a chair of to discuss next year's visit	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Make sure you all have appropriate contact information from your OVT members	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Reacquaint yourselves with your system's improvement journey by reviewing the existing documentation in the KESA Authenticated Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Attend the October KESA Update on October 12, 2021 from 9:00 – 10:00 (Registration information in this newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/>

General Information

- KESA has its own email; accreditation@ksde.org. Please direct all questions and comments to this email.
- For system-specific support for your continuous improvement process and accreditation efforts, you can also request an on-site visit by KESA staff using the KESA email.



- For a list of the 95 systems scheduled for an accreditation review this 2021-2022 school year, please click [here](#).



Check out our [Foundational Structures](#) webpage for new resources.

KESA Orientation for New Superintendents

Join KSDE accreditation staff to discuss all you need to know about KESA (Kansas Education Systems Accreditation). You will become familiar with your system's KESA history and learn how to access your systems progress inside the authenticated application system. Further discussion and guided work time will be provided to address data analysis and goal alignment. Individualized assistance will be given to each system as needed.

This training will be offered in Sublette, Hays, at Greenbush-Lawrence and at Orion.

Date	Location	Time	Link
9-29	Sublette	8:30-11:30	REGISTER HERE
9-30	Hays	8:30 - 11:30	REGISTER HERE
10-08	Lawrence	8:30-11:30	REGISTER HERE
10-11	Clearwater	8:30-11:30	REGISTER HERE



Monthly KESA Update and Support Meeting Schedule

All KESA Support Zooms are scheduled from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

- Oct 12, 2021
- Nov 9, 2021
- Dec 14, 2021
- Jan 11, 2022
- Feb 8, 2022
- Mar 8, 2022
- Apr 12, 2022

Other KESA-related News

Professional Development (PD)

The new Professional Development/In-service Plan Checklist and Plan Review Tool and the PD statutes and regulations are now available on the [website](#) or from the links below..

[2021-26 PD Plan Checklist and Review Final.pdf](#)

[5-year Inservice Plan review PD Statutes and Regs 2021.pdf](#)

Please use this checklist to ensure that your 5-year professional development plan has the minimum components required based on the criteria established by the State Board and Kansas statutes and regulations. The checklist also contains instructions on how to mark your plan before turning it in to KSDE for review. Besides ensuring that all required components are included in your plan, KSDE hopes this process will shorten its plan review time so it can give its recommendations to the Board of Education as soon as possible after you submit your plan.

We are currently working on reviewing plans that were due on 8/1/2021 or before.

If you have any questions about the tool or need to submit a plan for review, please email Ed Kalas, Education Program Consultant, at ekalas@ksde.org.



Mentoring Plans

We are working with several school districts to work through a draft of a [Mentoring Plan Checklist and Plan Review Tool](#), similar to the one above for PD Plans. Once that is ready for distribution, we will post it on the website.

Licensing

The Educator Data Collection System (EDCS) is now open to enter licensed personnel data for the 2021-2022 school year. The Fall Vacancy Report is due for submission within EDCS no later than 5:00pm CST September 27, 2021.

The Mentor Programs application is open to submit mentors for the 2021-2022 school year. Mentors must be entered no later than 5:00pm CST September 27, 2021. The Mentor program application will close at 5:00pm CST September 27, 2021 and not re-open until April 1st, 2022.

Stipend for Public School Classroom Teacher Mentors

STIPEND 2021-22

As required by statute, districts must apply for mentor grant funds this fall, in order for their qualified mentor teachers to be eligible for the state funded mentor stipend. Districts apply for the mentor grant by reporting their participating mentor teachers this fall.

Enter your mentor teachers into the Mentor Programs application - a KSDE authenticated application.

(Request access to Mentor Programs using the Manage My Account function for KSDE Authenticated Applications if you do not already have access.

Deadline is September 27, 2021

For mentors to meet the statutory requirements for the state funded stipend, mentors must:

- hold a professional or accomplished level license
- hold an assignment as a classroom teacher
- reported as educator type 1-5 in the EDCS/LPR
- have three consecutive school years of employment in the school district where they are providing the mentoring
- cannot be mentoring more than two new-to-the profession teachers (classroom teachers in their 1st 3 years of teaching)
- have completed a mentor training program (based on the mentor program guidelines)

To review detailed guidance information on mentoring and mentor stipend qualifications [Click Here: Mentoring and State Funded Stipends](#)

Districts will log back into the application during the spring 2021 semester to validate their mentors/assigned mentees and submit.

Questions on mentor stipends contact Shane Carter at scarter@ksde.org



Thank you for all you are doing to improve education for students across Kansas.

From the KESA Staff

Mischel, Jeannette, Myron, John, and Ed

For more information, contact:

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