

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

Jim McNiece announced the addition of two new members to the Task Force – Vanessa Harshberger, Principal at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, representing private schools; and Rep. Steve Huebert, Chair of the House Committee on Education. He also mentioned that Task Force leadership will present a six-month status report on Task Force progress to the Kansas State Board of Education on Wednesday, Dec. 15, beginning at approximately 10:40 a.m. The Board meeting will be livestreamed. Speakers will cover work to date, a timeline for 2022, and sub-committee summaries. At the May 10, 2022 State Board meeting, the Task Force's final report and recommendations will be presented. It is currently unknown what date the State Board will act on the recommendations.

Jarred Fuhrman reviewed a timeline of the next couple months, in addition to dates Mr. McNiece stated. Detailed reports from sub-committees will be shared with the entire Task Force at the Jan. 20 meeting. Plans are being made for this to be an in-person meeting in Topeka with a virtual attendance option. More details will be shared soon. A next step will be to gather stakeholder input to help shape the final recommendations.

Next, Trisha Backman, a teacher at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex and a member of the Special Education Advisory Council, presented considerations that impact students in unique circumstances who are working to achieve a GED or high school diploma. She commented on such areas as special education IEPs, attainment of value-added credits, support for transition plans to gain workforce skills, demonstrating mastery of competency, and total core credits needed for graduation.

The three sub-committees continued their work in breakout rooms for most of the meeting. Leaders then verbally provided summaries to the entire group, each mentioning the importance of incorporating targets identified in the student's Individual Plan of Study.

Mr. McNiece closed the meeting by congratulating school districts recently honored through the Kansans Can Star Recognition program for achieving at least a 95 percent graduation rate.

The next virtual meeting is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

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