



Talking Points

for Educators, Staff and Parents

Vision:

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

- This won't happen overnight, but it will happen because Kansans never back down from a challenge, especially when it comes to our children.
- Kansas has great leadership throughout its schools, we have top educators, and we have a robust business community. The pieces are there, we just have to get them all working together.

Flexibility:

Kansas education must be flexible to meet the needs of today's students and the future workforce.

- Kansans have said that while academics are important, schools need to place equal focus on helping students attain nonacademic skills in order to be successful in the workforce.
- By 2020, it is estimated that 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require some post-secondary education. Today, only 52 percent of Kansans have "some" post-secondary education. We need to close that gap.

Working Together:

While academics are and will remain important, students who lack nonacademic skills, such as conscientiousness, perseverance and the ability to collaborate and communicate, will struggle both in the pursuit of post-secondary education and in the workforce.

- Schools, parents, communities and businesses need to work together to make sure our kids are well prepared.

Perspective:

We can rethink how our schools are asked to operate. From a state perspective, we will look at every requirement to determine if and how we are supporting or impeding our schools' abilities to address the needs of each child.

To achieve this bold vision for Kansas education:

- Kansas children need quality preschool, including all-day kindergarten.
- Changes need to be made to address school culture. We have to value and support the student who chooses to pursue a technical education or a two-year college as much as we do the student pursuing a four-year college degree.
- New dynamic roles are needed for counselors and social workers. We have to provide opportunities for school counselors and social workers to focus on helping individual students explore career paths and develop individual plans of study.
- Collaboration between schools and businesses is critical. We must find a way to get businesses into the classroom and the classroom into the businesses through internships and job shadowing.
- Schools need to be reorganized around the student, not the systems. We must find a way for equity and common sense to co-exist.
- Community service should play a bigger role in education.

New Direction:

This new direction requires us to focus on new outcomes.

Areas being considered:

- Kindergarten readiness.
- Increasing graduation rates.
- Increasing the percent of students completing a credential or pursuing post-secondary education.
- Decreasing the percent of students who need remedial coursework when they attend post-secondary schools.
- Each student will have an individual plan of study focused on career interest.
- Social/emotional factors relative to student success are to be measured locally.

For more information contact:

Denise Kahler, Director
Communications and Recognition Programs
dkahler@ksde.org
(785) 296-4876



Communications and
Recognition
Programs
www.ksde.org

Communications and Recognition Programs
Kansas State Department of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 S. W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612-1212, (785) 296-3201

Revised Dec. 1, 2015

#KansansCan