



KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# TALKING POINTS

## Kansans Can School Redesign Project

### Background

- In 2015, Kansas State Board of Education announced its new vision for education – Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.
- Based on feedback from 20 community and seven business conversations, Kansans have identified the need for their schools to move away from a “one-size-fits-all” system that relies exclusively on state assessments.
- This new vision for education calls for a more student-focused system that provides support and resources for individual success and will require everyone to work together to make it a reality.
- Kansans told us schools need to place an equal amount of focus on helping students develop nonacademic skills, such as social-emotional growth, as they do on developing academic skills.

### Education Reimagined

In order for Kansas to achieve its vision of leading the world in the success of each student, we have to think differently about how we’re educating students.

- Imagine an education system where students have input into the types of projects and activities that help them learn best, increasing their interest and motivation. Where students are engaged in meaningful dialogue with parents and educators to identify their passions and areas of interest. Where they engage in learning that is personalized to their individual preferences and at a pace that ensures they are achieving to their fullest potential.
- Why student engagement? More engagement means fewer student absences, fewer behavior referrals and an increase in student achievement. Students having a say in how they structure their own learning and school day will foster responsibility, accountability and critical thinking. Designing learning around a student’s passions and interests increases the likelihood of that student graduating high school and pursuing a meaningful future.
- Kansas is building this education system through its Kansans Can School Redesign Project.

## Kansans Can School Redesign

- In 2017, Kansas State Department of Education launched the Kansans Can School Redesign Project.
  - Kansas school districts were invited to apply to be considered for the redesign project.
  - Districts agreed to designate one elementary school and one secondary school to be redesigned around the five outcomes established by the Kansas State Board of Education, the five elements identified as defining a successful Kansas high school graduate, and what Kansans said they want their schools to look like in the future.
  - Each district also had to have support of their local school board, their faculty and their local Kansas National Education Association or other professional organization.
    - Mercury 7: Seven Districts (2017)
    - Gemini I: Twenty-one Districts (2017-18)
    - Gemini II: Nineteen Districts (2018)
    - Apollo: Application closes April 4, 2019
- Participation as of Feb. 1, 2019:
  - Forty-seven districts
  - 110 school buildings

## Why is Kansas redesigning its educational system?

The current educational system has worked very well for some students, but not for all.

- This is evident when we look at Kansas' graduation rate. While 87.5 percent is a solid graduation rate, the other side of that indicates that we are not meeting the needs of nearly 13 percent of our students. Our children and families deserve better. Kansans believe changing the system for each student is the answer.
- By offering students more opportunities and different ways to personalize their learning, they will become engaged learners and will grow in self-regulation, self-efficacy and independence. We are taking the best educational practices used throughout Kansas' history to create a model that will help each Kansas student succeed.

## School Redesign is a Process Driven by Four Principles.

### STUDENT SUCCESS SKILLS:

There is an integrated approach to develop social-emotional growth.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

Partnerships are based on mutually beneficial relationships and collaboration.

### PERSONALIZED LEARNING:

Teachers support students to have choice over their time, place, pace and path.

### REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS:

Project-based learning, internships and civic engagement make learning relevant.

## Online Curriculum/Learning Platforms

The use of online curriculum/learning platforms is nothing new for Kansas schools.

- Online learning platforms (Edgenuity, Dreambox, Summit) are slowly replacing traditional print versions of textbooks/workbooks as they are easier to update, and through technology, can provide a greater variety and volume of resources, including lessons that better engage students into the learning.
- Most schools have been using online curriculums for many years.
- The selection and purchase of curriculum is a local decision.
- KSDE does not endorse curriculum, but supports districts' rights to choose.
- Some online curriculum, such as Summit Learning, is provided to schools free of charge.

## Why personalized learning?

- Personalized learning is about tailoring learning for each student's strengths, needs and interests – including enabling student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn – to provide flexibility and supports to ensure mastery of the highest standards possible.
- The goal of personalized learning is to ensure that our students will be adequately prepared with the knowledge and skills they need for college or career.
- This will build upon on all we know and are already doing to implement good teaching practice while providing the increased flexibility and support educators need to put students at the center of education.
- Through personalized learning, students are encouraged to play a greater role – and be more invested – in their learning.
- Students can learn at a flexible pace that's right for them in order to ensure they have thoroughly learned the material.

For more information, contact:

Tammy Mitchell  
Elementary School Redesign Specialist  
(785) 296-4623  
[tmitchell@ksde.org](mailto:tmitchell@ksde.org)

Jay Scott  
Secondary School Redesign Specialist  
(785) 296-6318  
[jscott@ksde.org](mailto:jscott@ksde.org)



Division of Learning Services  
Kansas State Department of Education  
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 656  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
(785) 296-2303  
[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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*Kansas leads the world in  
the success of each student.*