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## Gemini II: The Space Walk Begins

The Kansas State Department of Education is accepting district applications for Gemini II: The Space Walk Begins, the next phase of the Kansasans Can School Redesign Project.

Districts selected for the Gemini II: The Space Walk Begins project will join Mercury and Gemini I districts in redesigning one elementary and one secondary school 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 Kansasans said they want schools to look like in the future.

Interested districts will have until April 2 to complete the application process, which includes assurances of school board approval, at least 80 percent faculty approval and support from the district's local KNEA or other professional organization.

Gemini II districts will receive redesign support provided through a regional coaching model beginning with the 2018-19 school year and will agree to launch new school designs in the 2019-2020 school year.



## KESA Update

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## General Information

- **All** systems are to be hosting a KESA visit this year. Suggested window for those visits are March 15 – April 15. We have received emails and calls from systems in years 1 – 4 asking if the KESA visit can occur towards the end of April or beginning of May. The answer to that question is yes, we only ask that you try to have your visits no later than the first week of May.
- **If you are a year 5 system**, scheduled for your accreditation visit this year, then we ask that the March 15 – April 15 timeline, be adhered to since the Accreditation Review Council will be meeting to discuss the accreditation status of your system at their next meeting.
- **All Systems:** Prior to the KESA onsite visit, all systems need to login to their KESA application and complete the KESA initial report sections 4 through 15.1. Please be sure to submit a copy of that report to the visiting team chair and visiting team members before the visit.
- **Use of Outside Visitation Team (OVT) Workbook in the KESA Onsite Visit: Chair and OVT resource or System resource? Both!**
  - 1) The Outside Visitation Team (OVT) workbook is a tool designed to be a resource document for the KESA Chair and OVT members. As such, the KESA chair and OVT members should utilize the workbook to guide them through the visit, capture notes and conversation, and assist them in keeping the conversation going by reviewing, if needed, the questions identified in the workbook.

So, why has KSDE stated that the OVT Workbook is for the chair to complete? Because the OVT Workbook was developed with the chair and OVT in mind. How the chair and OVT members utilize or complete the workbook is up to them.

## KESA Update (cont'd)

Some chairs may want to go through the workbook and utilize it as their documentation for their visit and yet others will use it to guide their discussion. Whichever way the Chair and OVT decides to utilize the workbook to capture the essence of the visit, it should provide them with enough information to complete a yearly summary of the visit.

The OVT workbook is to serve as a historical document for the chair and OVT throughout the cycle of accreditation; and, if the situation arises where an OVT Chair could no longer serve in that position within a district's cycle then it could serve as a resource to a new chair.

Additionally, at this time, chairs will upload the OVT workbook into the System's KESA Application through the authenticated application. Chairs will have access to a section of the application designated for chairs only. This section also includes the yearly summary reports that chairs will need to complete summarizing the visit. Why do chairs need to upload the OVT workbook if it is a tool for their use? The Accreditation Review Council is interested in seeing what documentation comes in from the OVT workbooks that may serve as support to the yearly summary reports.

- 2) Systems use of OVT workbook: Although the OVT workbook is not a required document for the system, some chairs have chosen to ask the system to complete it prior to their visit. Chairs doing this have indicated that the purpose for this is to capture information prior to the visit, thereby utilizing that information to understand more about the district and to develop clarifying questions and/or more in-depth questions about the KESA process in preparation for the visit.

Additionally, Systems wanting to know what their visit will look like, can utilize the OVT workbook to review expectations for the visit. If they so choose to complete the workbook in preparation for the visit, that is okay.

This is the first full year implementation of KESA and KSDE is trying to work with various groups to fulfill needs and expectations. As such, as we hear push back or concerns about consistency in messaging we will do our best to provide clarifications. We want to hear your concerns in order to determine how best to formalize this process. We know that as all systems in year's one through five complete an accreditation cycle we will be learning with you and will need to look at improving processes to ensure a successful Accreditation system.

- **KSDE telephone support calls for all systems** have been going well. These support calls are divided into two groups; support calls for systems in years 1 – 3 and those in years 4 – 5. Following is the list of times and dates for those calls along with the conference call information:

**KESA System Support Conference Calls**  
**Phone number: 866-620-7326**  
**Conference Call Code: 7852964073**

Systems in KESA Years 1, 2 and 3 (ONLY)

**Every other Tuesday Beginning January 30, 2018 from 10:00 – 11:00**

March 13, 2018  
 March 27, 2018  
 April 10, 2018  
 April 24, 2018

## **KESA Update (cont'd)**

### Systems in KESA Years 4 and 5 (ONLY)

Every other Tuesday Beginning January 30, 2018 from 1:30 – 2:30

March 13, 2018

March 27, 2018

April 10, 2018

April 24, 2018

### **KESA Application**

- KESA Application Enhancements – scheduled release date is middle of March.
  - KESA final report (to be used by systems in their accreditation year)
  - Login for chairs to complete the yearly summary reports and upload OVT workbooks
  - Login for Accreditation Review Council (ARC)
- If you are a private system, and have not yet started the KESA application, please do so now.
- OVT workbook will be available by year in the KESA Application Chair section for chairs to download. There will be an upload feature also available.

### **Systems Visits**

- All systems are to be hosting a KESA visit this year.
- If as a system you have not identified an outside visiting team chair and team, you probably need to be working on this now. Do not hesitate to call or email the KESA team at the KSDE for any support needed in this area.
- Systems need to complete sections 4 – 15.1 of the KESA Initial Report prior to the visit.
- Systems are to provide a copy of their initial KESA report to their outside chair and team.
- During your visit It is important to:
  - talk about your goals, strategies/interventions/practices used to achieve your goals
  - the alignment of your system goals with that of your school building goals
  - evidence of what and how your system is doing
  - foundational structures and how they are being addressed
  - community and stakeholder involvement and support (focus groups)
  - system goals and impact of change in State Board goals (Results)

### **Accreditation Review Council (ARC)**

- The Accreditation Review Council is the group charged with providing the recommendation about accreditation of a system to the Kansas State Board of Education.
- Since the last KESA Update the ARC has met once more, focus of that meeting was in looking at all the possible documentation that they would be receiving from the system, system chair and KSDE to help them with making an accreditation recommendation status.
- They had a first look at a possible accreditation criteria to help in their decision making process.
- The Arc will meet again on May 2, 2018 to review documents for an accreditation recommendation of two public systems and 5 private systems. Also during this meeting further discussion about an accreditation criteria rubric will be discussed.

## KESA Update (cont'd)

### Accreditation Advisory Council (AAC)

- Since the last KESA update the AAC has met once again, making it a total of three times that they have met this year. During this last meeting discussion focused on:
  - KESA Summary Reports
  - Chair Fact Sheet Feedback
  - Accreditation criteria guidance
- In late March, KSDE will be sending out information regarding nominations to fill vacancies of outgoing members to the council. We urge you to self-nominate or nominate someone you know to these positions.

### Chair and Outside Visiting Team Training

- In March, a survey for existing OVT trained members and OVT chairs will go out. The turnaround time for those surveys is only 10 days. The surveys will not take more than 10 – 15 minutes to complete. Information obtained from those surveys will help in the development of new trainings for OVT members and chairs Fall 2018.

### Accreditation Email

- In an effort to improve support to the field, a general email for accreditation questions is available. The email address is [accreditation@ksde.org](mailto:accreditation@ksde.org).

## Science Education Resources

The latest roundup of science education resources can be found in our [KSDE February Science Newsletter](#) released through our [KSDE Science Listserv](#).

### Highlights:

- An amazing resource for pitfalls to avoid with culturally responsive instruction in the science classroom.
- If your district missed our KSDE science regional sessions the facilitator guide, resources, and presentation have been shared to support your learning communities.

Please contact Lizette Burks, Science Education Program Consultant, if she can of any service to you or your school district. Thank you.



### **Lizette Burks, Ed.D.**

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### **Kansas State Department of Education**

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## KSDE-Sponsored Events

Please share the following dates with your teachers and building leadership teams.

### Summer Leadership Conference for Administrators

July 25-26, 2018

Wichita

### Summer Impact Institutes

June 5-6, 2018

Emporia State University

July 17-18, 2018

Fort Hays State University

### KSDE Annual Conference

October 15-17, 2018

Hyatt Regency

Wichita, Kansas

## TASN Professional Learning Newsletter



To access TASN'S latest Professional Learning Event Newsletter, including information on upcoming professional learning opportunities, please click on the following link: <http://conta.cc/2CL0IOJ>. If you have any questions, please contact:

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Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN)  
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