



Kansas State Department of Education Division of Learning Services

October 2018

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Academic Standards

With regard to the development and review of academic standards, the norm in Kansas has been to convene a review committee every seven years, a review committee that often *revises* the standards. These revisions in turn create a need for new assessments, new curricula, new professional development, etc.

The KSDE hopes to break the cycle of standards revision driven by a particular calendar date as opposed to revision pursuant to the demonstrable need for substantive changes.

Kansas law requires a review of the standards every seven years. Nothing, however, prevents the state from making refinements or revisions to standards on a more frequent basis. In the case of assessed standards, some decision will have to be made regarding the domain content to be measured, but this should not create a situation in which standards remain static for almost a decade without input. Additionally, the state should recognize the freedom to engage in a review of academic standards with the option not to revise if revisions are not warranted.

Academic Standards (cont'd)

With regard specifically to science, the Kansas State Board of Education completed its review of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5170(b). To date, the State Board has not received feedback indicating the standards need to be revised. The science standards, which were adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education in 2013, continue to reflect high academic standards. Because of a lag in the availability of aligned resources, the effects of implementing the 2013 Kansas Curricular Standards for Science have not yet been measured. Fortunately, school districts now have access to more resources for curricula, instruction, and assessments than were available in the years since 2013. These materials will enable schools to implement the shifts contained in the Kansas Curricular Standards for Science.

The State Board seeks to increase the level of input on all core academic areas and will support further science implementation efforts. The KSDE is in the very early stages of developing a web application designed to gather regular feedback on all of the academic standards, feedback on issues such as (1) district-level challenges to implementation, (2) grade-level content and appropriateness, and (3) content breadth, depth, and rigor. The application will allow the KSDE to query feedback and if necessary respond to suggestions.

The KSDE will collect regular standards and implementation feedback through the new portal and will have an improved science assessment in 2021.

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ACT/WorkKeys Update

Templates were to have been submitted to KSDE by September 24 to designate the District Test Coordinator and Building Test Coordinators for each district for ACT and WorkKeys. KSDE uploaded that information to ACT. If you missed that deadline (we did get some after that date that we were still able to process) or if you need to make changes in the personnel you submitted, you will need to work directly with ACT through PearsonAccessNext after November 5.

Training, helpdesk information and other resources are available on the ACT Kansas webpage:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/kansas.html>

ACT will begin sending out emails to BTCs and DTCs on October 29 to guide you through each step of the set up and administration for ACT and WorkKeys. PearsonAccessNext which is the platform used for ACT administration tasks opens November 5.

To register your students for ACT and/or WorkKeys, TEST records must be submitted through the KIDS system as is done for Kansas state assessments. Those records must be submitted by December 12. KSDE staff will then upload that information to ACT. Any additional enrollment or un-enrollment will be done directly with ACT. Those adjustments can be made up until January 11. TEST records will also have to be edited corresponding to those changes.

ACT conducted three regional implementation training sessions. If you were unable to attend or if you wish to re-visit the information the training is posted in modules on the ACT Kansas webpage. ACT/WorkKeys Regional Training recorded materials: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/kansas/the-act.html#preparation>.

NEW ESOL Consultant



I hope this email finds you all well. I'd like to take a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Nicole Primm and I am the new ESOL Education Program Consultant for KSDE.

I understand that this role is new for the state, but proving to be very necessary. In this role, my goal is to be able to provide support to ESOL teachers, content specific teachers, students and parents based on English Language Proficiency standards and assessments. This support will come by way of various resources, professional learning opportunities and collaborations with state activities and district/school improvement plans. If you have any question or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at: nprimm@ksde.org or (785) 296-5060.

I am thrilled to join the KSDE family and look forward to learning, growing and helping to continue to propel our ESOL students!

Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Tool: Update and What's Ahead

This fall, Kansas took another step forward toward preparing all children to enter kindergarten at age five socially, emotionally, and academically prepared for success. The Ages & Stages Questionnaires Third Edition (ASQ-3) and the Ages & Stages Questionnaires Social Emotional Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2) are grounded in the fundamental principles established for a Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Tool: they provide a snapshot of children's progress across key domains of development, and they engage families and caregivers. All Kansas school districts were required to begin administering the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2 for kindergarteners between Aug. 1 and Sept. 20, 2018.

As of October 2, districts have entered 21,838 ASQ-3 screenings and 21,341 ASQ:SE-2 screenings for children ages 5 years and older. The KSDE Early Childhood team is now collecting feedback and lessons learned from districts, particularly regarding best practices to facilitate strong family engagement and participation. If you achieved high participation in this process – thank you! Please share your successful strategies with us at earlylearning@ksde.org. Likewise, if you experienced challenges or have feedback regarding this year's process, please let us know. We will now analyze this year's data and communicate the results to create a better understanding of the current state of Kansas kindergarteners' development.

Additional resources for interpreting results and next steps are available at the dedicated Kansas ASQ website, <https://agesandstages.com/ks>. Visit Section IV of the Quick Reference Guides and the "Interpreting Results and Next Steps" online training module for additional information. As we consider what additional professional supports may be helpful, please share your feedback.

Four-Year-Old At-Risk Preschool Program – Slots Reallocation

Thanks to all our Four Year Old At-Risk program administrators for your partnership throughout the month of September as we reallocated these pre-school slots. Your participation and communication are helping us ensure that we serve as many pre-school students as possible. Filling all 8,064 Four Year Old At-Risk slots available statewide this year will maximize the increase in slots available for next year, and we appreciate your assistance in achieving that goal.

As you are preparing for audits this year, please prepare to work with the audit team to identify any 4-year-olds and 3-year-olds who meet one of the at-risk criteria, and who are not currently funded. Having an understanding of the number of children who qualify for funding and are currently being served statewide will help us make informed decisions later in the year to maximize funding.

Computer Science Model Standards Road Shows

Please join us to discuss the second draft of model K-12 standards for computer science. These sessions will set the stage for the public comment period through November and December and will also invite discussion on implementation guidelines for Kansas districts.

11/5/18	ESSDACK – Hutchinson Register Now
11/8/18	Greenbush South – Girard Register Now
11/13/18	Greenbush North – Lawrence Register Now
11/16/18	Smoky Hill – Salina REGISTER NOW
11/26/18	Orion – Clearwater Register Now
11/27/18	SW Plains – Sublette Register Now

All sessions will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm

Contact: Stephen King, PhD., sking@ksde.org, (785) 296-7285.



TASN Professional Learning Calendar of Events [View Calendar](#)

KSDE TASN provides free and low cost professional development online and in person across the State of Kansas. View information and register for upcoming professional learning opportunities provided by TASN and partner organizations on the TASN Professional Learning Calendar.

Considerations for the Effective Use of Paraprofessionals in Schools [View the Document](#)

Considerations for the Effective Use of Paraprofessionals in Schools is a new resource released by KSDE in September 2018. This is a resource document created to support Kansas local educational agency (LEA) administration, staff, and families in the effective use of paraprofessionals in school-based settings. There is an emphasis on understanding effective practices, encouraging data-based decision-making, and managing implementation of paraprofessionals.

Harvesting Diversity to Create Resourceful Systems

October 29-30, 2018

Holiday Inn East, Wichita

[Information & Registration](#)

Tensions exist naturally in all social systems. We have been taught to avoid divisive issues and difficult conversations. However, to create resourceful communities, we must enhance our ability to explore these tensions.

This 2-day seminar will begin with unpacking and examining our own values and beliefs that may blind us to other perspectives. Participants will then move forward with the exploration and practice of explicit structures, strategies and tools to gracefully navigate difficult conversations.

Talking about diversity in all areas of our lives is now vitally important – for our homes, for our relationships, for our communities, and for the world at large. We owe it to ourselves and to our children to figure out how to have these conversations that are necessary for the sustainability of humanity.

Effective Instruction and Cooperative Learning Structures

November 6, 2018

Tanganyika Wildlife Park, Goddard

[Information & Registration](#)

In this one day training, participants will:

- Develop skills in effective instruction.
- Experience three learning structures to facilitate student learning.
- Learn the critical elements of cooperative group learning
- Explore the role of the teacher in establishing cooperative groups
- Develop lesson plans that include accommodations for learners of differing abilities.

Who should attend? Educators involved in the TASN Co-teaching training and/or General and special education co-teachers, instructional coaches, interventionists and co-teaching/inclusion facilitators.

Leadership in Behavior Support -- [Information & Registration](#)

November 13, 2018

Holiday Inn East I-35, Wichita

Effective schools have effective leadership. The role of a leader is extremely complex, with tremendous rewards. Access to the best research and evidence-based tools and strategies is key to every instructional leader's success. This workshop focuses on the concepts, strategies, and tools in Leadership in Behavior Support and Social Emotional Learning. Based on the book [Leadership in Behavior Support: Administrator's Guide](#) by Safe & Civil Schools, this workshop topics cover the instructional leader's role in:

- Building and maintaining a positive and proactive school climate for students, staff, and the community
 - Effectively creating a shared leadership model that can support and unify staff around a schoolwide classroom management model
 - Collecting and analyzing behavior data for continuous improvement
 - Conducting powerful staff meetings and practicing effective decision making
- This workshop is for principals, assistant principals, aspiring principals, district leadership, and other building leaders Grades K–12.

12th Annual Kansas Infinitec Coalition Technology Conference -- [Information & Registration](#)

November 30th, 2018

Doubletree Airport, Wichita

Join Kansas and National Presenters as they address increasing access to the curriculum through assistive technology and instructional design. Full day sessions include:

- Gail Van Tatenhove, "Creating Core Vocabulary Environments for Students with Complex Motor and Communication Needs"
- Mark Coppin, "The iPad and Accessing the Curriculum for Students with Significant Challenges"
- Shonda Anderson, "It's Not Your Daddy's Classroom! Differentiating for Today's Learners"
- Mike Marotta, "Access for ALL: Using Technology to Provide Accessible Core Content"

Differentiating Instruction and Universal Design for Learning -- [Information & Registration](#)

December 6-7, 2018

Kansas City

Dr. Richard Villa will present in Kansas City, Kansas. In this 2-Day training, participants will explore approaches to differentiating the content students learn, the process through which they learn it, and how they demonstrate what they have learned. Participants will practice both a Retrofit and a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach to differentiation. Participants will have the opportunity to design unit/lesson plans that integrate whole class, group, and individualized instructional strategies designed to meet the needs of a diverse student body. This training is intended for previously trained coaches and previously trained co-teachers. However, it is open to any educator interested in differentiated instruction and/or Universal Design for Learning. Materials will be provided.

2019 National ESEA Conference -- [Information & Registration](#)

January 30-February 2, 2019

Kansas City, Missouri