

# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## September 2023

### Accreditation & Design- KESA Team Introduction

***“Within a system of accreditation and design, provide accountability along with support to move systems toward ensuring the success of each student.”***

Ah, September. As the new school year settles in, I hope you are finding a rhythm in the work of educating kids. Speaking of rhythm, this time of year always conjures up memories of Friday nights and Saturday afternoons watching the action on the football field. When the weather cooperates, there is no place I'd rather be than watching high school and college football. At the college level, it's always interesting to see how new recruits are fitting into the program, especially those from Kansas high school programs. Will they step in right away and play? Will they be red-shirted? Are they a good fit for the program? I'm not sure the percentage of first-year players who are eligible to play right away or are red-shirted nowadays, but it seemed like putting a red-shirt on first-year players used to be common practice. It makes sense to allow a student-athlete to be part of the program by practicing, hitting the weight room, and being involved in everything team-related besides playing in games so he can acclimate to the new system of offense or defense, the new schedule, and new expectations for performance in the classroom and on the field.

As we began this year in systems accreditation, we knew this would be a transition year from the first cycle of KESA to the next version beginning in 2024-2025. To allow each system in Kansas to acclimate to the new model, the new structures (like a KESA Check-in) and the new expectations, we have called this year a “learning year”, our own version of a red-shirt year. Each system has the opportunity to adapt to the new accreditation model that will be in place for 24-25 by documenting their school improvement work locally, completing a KESA Check-in, and participating in a Peer Review. During this “learning year” no systems will be reviewed by the ARC as the next iteration of K-12 systems accreditation is developed in Kansas. As the work of continuous improvement carries on in every district, school, and classroom, the intent of this year is to reset accreditation by engaging with educators all across the state to collaboratively develop a model that leads to every system and every student getting better. Red-shirt years are not easy but, if done well, can lead to future success. The Accreditation & Design team stands ready to support systems all along the way.

Thank you for all you are doing to improve education for students across Kansas.

To the moon,

Jay, Myron, Sarah, and Amber

# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## Our Vision

All educational systems in Kansas will achieve fully accredited status by June 2030.

## Our Purpose

As a tool to support Kansas in leading the world in the success of each student, Kansas Education System Accreditation (KESA) does the following:

1. Ensures that each K-12 system meets a threshold in student success, accreditation standards, and compliance areas.
2. Recognizes excellence in student success.

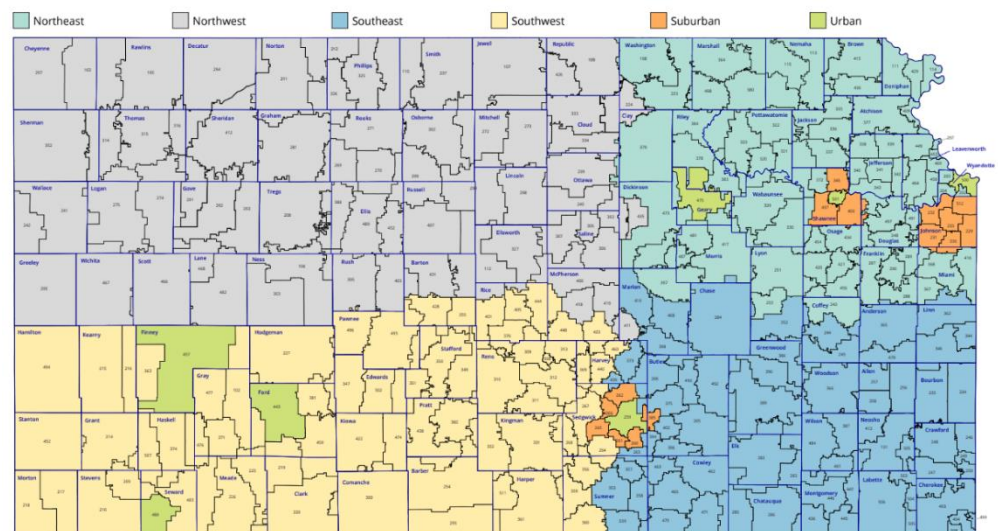
## Our Mission

To provide support and accountability to 350-plus education systems in order for each system to elevate opportunities and reduce limitations for students.

## Regional Model of Support

Our vision is that every system in Kansas will be fully accredited. We know that through the last cycle of KESA, many systems did not feel that they received consistent support, guidance and/or access to resources. To be more responsive and support systems' needs, we are moving to a regional model of support where a KSDE employee will live in each region of the state and work only with systems in that region. Through this model, each Regional Executive will work with approximately 70 systems on their KESA process. Regional Executives will serve as accountability partners and support providers to the systems in their region/cohort. View the large map [here](#).

**Accreditation and Design Regions**



# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## System Expectations: 2023/2024

On August 10, the KESA team hosted a 'Beginning of the Year Kick-Off' for all System and KESA leaders in Kansas. During this meeting, we focused on the technical changes being made to KESA for the 2023/2024 school year. These technical changes include:

1. KESA Check In
2. KESA Reporting Expectations for all Systems in 23-24 (Learning Year)
3. The Peer Review model (formerly known as OVT)

If you were unable to attend this meeting, you will be able to access our slides, meeting handouts, and the meeting recording, by visiting our training information page ([here](#)). Following, you will also find a summary about each change with links to handouts made available.

### KESA Check In

Our vision is that every system in Kansas will be fully accredited. We know that through the last cycle of KESA, many systems did not feel that they received consistent support and guidance and access to resources. To be more responsive and support to systems' needs, we are going to a regional model of support where a KSDE employee will live in each region of the state and work only with systems in that region. Check out our [map](#) and [fact sheet](#) for more!

In order to make sure each system is supported by our team, we are implementing a KESA Check-In that will take place between each system and the appointed Accreditation Team member annually. These will kick off in the spring of 2024. To make sure each system is met with in the spring, we are beginning the process to schedule in-person KESA Check-ins with Regional Executives (beginning in January 2024) now. At your earliest convenience, please complete [this Google form](#) with information for scheduling your KESA check-in. We would like all forms back no later than October 1, 2023, so that we can ensure each system is set up for their spring visit!

### KESA Reporting Expectations for all Systems in 23-24 (Learning Year)

During the 2023/2024 school year, in lieu of completing a narrative-based report in the authenticated application, you will instead build a repository to demonstrate that your system has 'conclusive evidence of a quality, improvement process'. Artifacts to gather will be around process, the four fundamentals, and outcomes. Systems should spend first quarter of 2023 working to answer the following questions:

- What is our data telling us about student success?
- What are our internal and external stakeholders telling us about our current state?
- What are our current goals? What data do we have on them? How are we doing?
- What adjustments can we make now to allow for better outcomes moving forward?
- How will we stay accountable?

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## The Peer Review Model (formerly known as OVT)

Beginning 2023/2024, the OVT model is transitioning into the Peer Review.

During the first cycle of Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA), every system was required to work with an Outside Validation Team (which later became the Outside Visitation Team) to receive feedback about the work and progress of your system. Over the course of the first cycle, the role of OVT changed from that of validation to that of collaboration and feedback. While some systems were able to build strong partnerships with their OVT members, many struggled to build consistent and meaningful relationships with their OVT.

Moving forward, the Accreditation and Design Team is making two changes to the OVT model.

We are moving away from 'Outside Visitation Team' and to the term 'Peer Review' as it more accurately reflects the intention and scope of work.

We are offering flexibility in how you curate a peer review team for the purposes of obtaining feedback. Note, you must have a peer review annually but, for the 2023-2024 school year, how you engage in the process is flexible.

To better support systems in engaging in third-party accountability and collaboration, the Accreditation and Design Team is adding flexibility to the model by offering three ways through which your system can obtain feedback from a third party. The three options for obtaining your 'Peer Review' include:

- Regional Peer Review
- Traditional Peer Review
- Like-System Peer Review

The graphic below outlines what is expected within each peer review model. Each system must choose a model that works best for them.



You can learn more about the meeting norms, focus, and desired outcomes by reviewing this [FACT SHEET](#).

# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## What do Cognia systems need to do to address the KESA Expectations for 2023/2024?

### How will Cognia systems satisfy the reporting expectations for 2023/2024?

Systems utilizing Cognia will continue to follow all expectations laid out by Cognia regardless of what changes are made to the KESA model. KSDE has recognized the work of Cognia to satisfy the 'process' requirement for accreditation. Thus, systems will be expected to continue to complete all required Cognia tools/requirements and maintain record of that locally. Cognia and the Accreditation and Design Team will work to ensure that all KESA criteria are met as the new model launches in 2024/2025. If criteria are not visible in the evidence already collected through Cognia, then a supplemental data collection system will be established. In the past an 'EMEY' (Every Member Every Year) form was put together through which supplemental information was provided by each system/member regarding their work to address the State Board Outcomes. This model could be used in the future. If/when such a decision is made, it will be communicated by both KSDE and Cognia in partnership. For this year, each system will continue to do the process laid out by Cognia and keep record of that work locally to serve as evidence for KESA.

### How will Cognia systems engage in the KESA Check-In and the Peer Review?

Moving forward, systems will engage in at least two KESA 'touchpoints' per year. The first is a KESA Check-In which is meant to be a one-on-one meeting between each system and their KSDE KESA Liaison; and the second is the Peer Review which is meant to be a meeting of [like] systems to review their school improvement efforts and the impacts they are seeing on student outcomes.

We believe these two touchpoints will be critical to the implementation of the new KESA framework rolling out in 2024/2025. Additionally, we believe these touchpoints will provide systems the "just in time" support they might need to ensure that they are reducing limitations and increasing opportunities for each student.

In an effort to honor the feedback we heard in the spring of 2022 [i.e. KESA needs clarity, consistency, and elimination of redundancy], KSDE will work in partnership with Cognia to ensure that each system is able to satisfy these meeting expectations through existing Cognia meetings if/when at all possible. While it might not be feasible for each system to satisfy both requirements through an existing Cognia meeting, KSDE and Cognia will work with that system to determine how best to satisfy the requirement with as little burden to all parties as possible.

# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL

### SEEKING NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS!

#### *\*PRIORITY POSITIONS – ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL & PRIVATE/PAROCHIAL SCHOOL LEADER\**

The Accreditation Review Council (ARC) is a key partner with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). The ARC plays a critical role in advancing the Kansas Vision for Education by assuring education systems are implementing effective continuous improvement processes that lead to improved student results. The ARC is comprised of 18 members from varying background (teachers, principals, superintendents, central office staff, higher education, and private/parochial schools), and is responsible for fulfilling the following duties:

1. Review and provide input to Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) staff concerning accreditation procedures and documentation necessary to make systems accreditation status recommendations.
2. Advise KSDE staff of concerns or issues related to procedures and documentation necessary to formulate accreditation recommendations to the State Board of Education.
3. Provide accreditation status recommendations to the Kansas State Board of Education for final accreditation approval as specified in the Accreditation Review Council Handbook

Members of the ARC serve 3-year terms and may serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. KSDE is seeking new Council membership. Criteria taken into consideration when seeking nominations include, but are not limited to;

1. Holding a current position for the group being represented
2. Experience and credentials in the area being represented
3. Relevant education and/or leadership experience
4. School/district size and demographics
5. State Board region representation

If you are interested in being considered for ARC membership, please utilize this link to complete a brief application survey. New members will be selected by Friday, September 1, 2023.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**SAVE THE DATE**



# Adaptive Schools Training

Coming 2023-2024

The Accreditation & Design Team Presents:  
**Adaptive Schools Training**  
**For: District Leadership Teams (3-5 people)**

**Registration Details:**  
**Days 1 & 2/Days 3 & 4:**

**Southwest Plains** –  
10/9/23, 10/10/23,  
1/29/24, 1/30/24

**Greenbush** – 10/19/23,  
10/20/23, 2/8/24, 2/9/24

**Orion** – 10/13/23,  
10/16/23, 1/31/24, 2/1/24

**ESSDACK** – 10/17/23,  
10/18/23, 2/6/24, 2/7/24

**Smoky Hill** – 10/11/23,  
10/12/23, 2/2/24, 2/5/24

\*Only 50-80 spots available per location!

\*\*Registration is open until full.

## Why engage?

By engaging in this training, District Leadership Teams will have the capacity to...

- Be flexible and adaptive with their structure while also being clear about their identity;
- Build collaborative, professional cultures and develop highly productive teams;
- Foster innovation while maintaining and supporting foundational practices that have proven to be impactful; and
- Address the adaptive challenges currently facing systems across Kansas (staff shortages, high turnover, professional development needs, etc)

...in order to improve student outcomes.

## Meet the Trainer:

Carol Brooks Simoneau, EdD, graduated from the



University of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in elementary education. She earned a Master of Science Degree with a reading specialist endorsement and an educational administration and leadership endorsement from Kansas State University. Carol earned a doctorate in educational administration and leadership from Kansas State University.

Carol is a Director for Thinking Collaborative and provides training in Cognitive Coaching® and Adaptive Schools® (Foundation and Advanced), Presentations Skills, Facilitation Skills, and Teacher Leadership.



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

Kansas State Department of Education | 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102 | Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212 | (785) 296-3201 | [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

The Kansas State Board 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 any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

# SAVE THE DATE



## KSDE Great Ideas in Education Conference

**October 25-27,  
2023**

Hyatt Regency Wichita  
400 W Waterman Street  
Wichita, Kansas 67202

**Online  
registration  
here!**

Registration Fees:

- One Day (Wed or Thur) - \$175
- One Half Day (Fri) - \$100
- Full Conference - \$275

### Empowered Together

The 2023 Great Ideas in Education Conference will focus on the tools necessary to strengthen school buildings and districts to support each Kansas student. We empower each other when we work together.

Strands being planned for this conference include:

- Balanced Assessment System
- Early Learning
- Elevating Voices in Education
- Leadership
- Safe and Supportive Schools
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology and Cyber Security

### Featured Presentations

Dr. Steve Constantino, a leader, teacher, speaker and best-selling author, will kick off the conference on **Wednesday, Oct. 25.**

Logan Taylor, of Y.B. Normal, will be the keynote speaker on **Thursday, Oct. 26.**

**Friday, Oct. 27's**, keynote speaker is Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson. Watson will highlight updates to education in Kansas.

**Friday** morning also will include updates to the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA).



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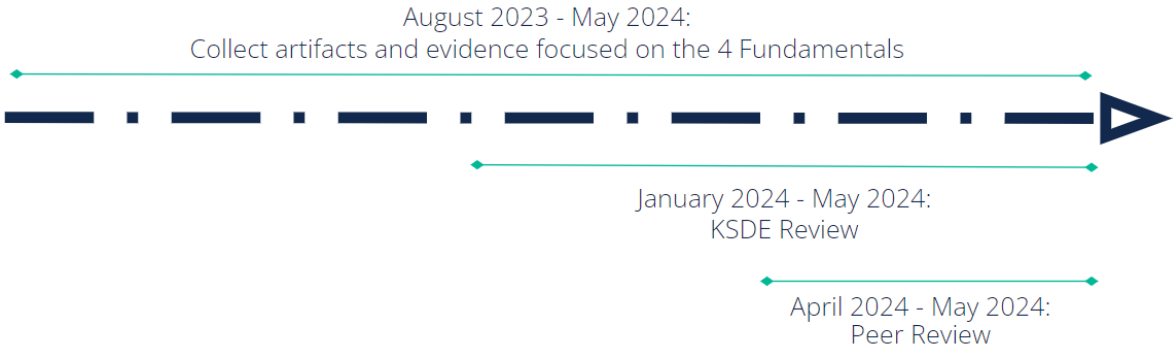
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## Timeline: 2023/2024

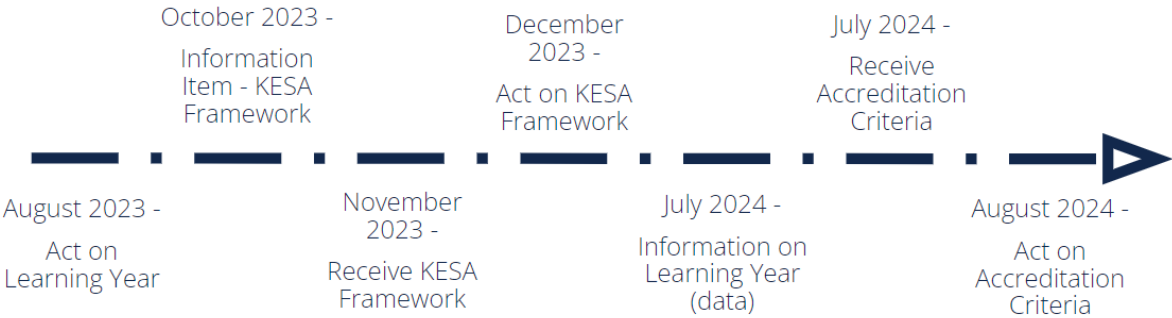
### System Actions

The timeline below outlines what expectations exists for school systems this year as it pertains to Accreditation. Systems have three key actions: (1) collect artifacts, (2) engage in the KSDE Check In, and (3) engage in the Peer Review. The expectations for each of these are articulated on the fact sheets throughout the 2023/2024 KESA Guidance.



### State Board of Education Actions

The timeline below outlines the anticipated actions the State Board of Education will undertake throughout the year to approve and move forward the enhanced KESA Framework.



# Kansans Can- Accreditation & Design



## Accreditation & Design Team Contact Information:

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_TBD_, SE Regional Executive		
_TBD_, SW Regional Executive		
_TBD_, Administrative Specialist		

You can also reach us by emailing [accreditation@ksde.org](mailto:accreditation@ksde.org)

For more information, contact:

Kansas Department of Education  
Division of Learning Services  
Accreditation & Design Team  
[accreditation@ksde.org](mailto:accreditation@ksde.org)



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