



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 postsecondary education. Today, only 52 percent of Kansans have "some" postsecondary 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 postsecondary 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:

- Kindergarten readiness.
- Increasing graduation rates.
- Increasing the percent of students completing a credential or pursuing postsecondary education.
- 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
(785) 296-4876
dkahler@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

www.ksde.org

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Five Outcomes

The Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) has selected five outcomes that will help measure the progress of their new vision:

Kindergarten Readiness:	Individual Plan of Study (IPS) Focused on Career Interest:	High School Graduation Rates:	Postsecondary Completion/Attendance:	Social/Emotional Growth Measured Locally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten readiness is an important building block for a student's future achievement and success. An Ages & Stages kindergarten readiness screener will provide educators with data to help determine where extra resources and supports should be delivered to students. It will be used to provide information to families, teachers and administrators about how many kindergarten students are developing at a rate that is appropriate for their age and where supports need to be provided if they aren't developing at the same rates. This information will support data-driven decision making by school, district and state policy makers who can consider targeted ways to increase readiness. The screener won't be used to keep a child from entering kindergarten, and it won't measure a teacher's abilities. It will measure a kindergarten's development in motor, literacy/language, math and social-emotional development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Individual Plan of Study (IPS) begins in middle school and should be developed cooperatively between the student, the student's school and family members based on the student's interests and talents. Each IPS will include results of a series of career interest inventories, coursework aligned with the student's educational and career goals, a general postsecondary plan and a comprehensive personal portfolio. An IPS can help all Kansas students obtain a suitable vision of their path toward college and career readiness. It also can help address the gap between the percentage of students enrolling at postsecondary schools and the percentage of students completing a credential from two- and four-year postsecondary institutions. An IPS can provide exploration of all forms of postsecondary education; help a student and their family members plan a more cost-effective education pathway, including dual-credit courses; and allow a student to select courses based upon his or her career interest. An IPS isn't a checklist. Developing and implementing an IPS is an ongoing process that should be reviewed and updated with the students and families at least twice per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kansas' 2014-2015 overall high school graduation rate was 85.7 percent. While this is above the national average, it isn't enough. We need to make sure every student graduates with the skills needed to be successful as they enter college or the workforce. It is imperative to increase the percentage of students who earn at least a high school diploma so we can meet the projected education requirements for our future workforce. By 2020, 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require postsecondary education and training. People without a high school diploma qualify for only 17 percent of all jobs, primarily sales and office support, food and personal service and blue-collar jobs; many of which may not provide a living wage or health care benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not every career requires a four-year degree. Technical colleges, community colleges and the military all play a critical role in preparing students for the workforce. The state will need more students not just enrolling in postsecondary programs, but completing a credential to meet the workforce needs in Kansas. With the labor market continually trending toward a higher set of skills, students will need to pursue higher levels of postsecondary education in order to remain competitive for jobs. Most new jobs or job openings will be "middle skill" jobs — those requiring a diploma, but less than a four-year degree. In 2020, the education demand for jobs in Kansas will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 percent master's degree; 25 percent bachelor's degree; 35 percent associates degree; and 29 percent high school diploma or less. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academics alone won't guarantee a student's success after high school. Students who lack nonacademic skills, such as conscientiousness, perseverance and the ability to communicate effectively, may find it more difficult to succeed in postsecondary education and the workforce. Social/Emotional learning is the process through which students and adults acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions; set and achieve positive goals; feel and show empathy for others; establish and maintain positive relationships; and make responsible decisions. Schools that incorporate social, emotional and character development have more student engagement, decreased suspensions and improved academic scores, according to research. Kansas, in 2012, was the first state to implement Social, Emotional, Character Development standards. The Kansas State Board of Education believes social/emotional growth in students should be measured locally.