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USD 497 Partners with The Jayhawk Experience & Kansas Athletics for State Assessments

This year's state assessments will serve as an important measure of the effect of the pandemic on student performance. The Kansas Legislature mandates that the Kansas State Board of Education provide an annual Kansas Assessment Program (KAP). KSDE expects all students in grades 3-8, 10, and 11 to participate in the KAP each spring and requires that the online testing occur in person.

The in-person testing requirement posed a unique challenge for Lawrence Public Schools this spring in assessing approximately 1,500 students whose families chose to have their students learn remotely. The school district is pleased to partner with The Jayhawk Experience and Kansas Athletics to host in-person testing for the district's distance learners at Allen Fieldhouse.

"We appreciate Kansas Athletics for its flexibility and willingness to assist our students with demonstrating their academic progress," said Dr. Zachary Conrad, USD 497's executive director of data and technology. "This arrangement prevents the district from dispersing our human resources to several different locations and disrupting school schedules by taking our gymnasiums offline in order to provide space to assess all of our distance learners."

"Allen Fieldhouse can easily accommodate safe distancing for our students. Plus, hosting testing at one of the best places in America to watch a college basketball game may boost participation. This opportunity could be the first visit to the home of Kansas Basketball for some of our students," he added.

Students in grades 3-8 and 10 will complete tests in English language arts and mathematics while their peers in grades 5, 8, and 11 take the science assessment. Testing will occur during morning and afternoon sessions May 10-13. The district will provide transportation and lunch for the students.

Important indicators of student progress, state assessments enable students to show what they know and support the district in evaluating student learning and making instructional decisions.

The KAP:

- Measures specific indicators within the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, the Kansas Science Education Standards, and the Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies. Content standards define what we want students to know and be able to do at the different grade levels.
- Provides information for calculating Annual Measurable Objectives and for state accreditation.
- Reports individual student scores and performance levels.
- Provides information that when combined with teacher observation and classroom assessment tools and school district assessments assists schools and districts in evaluating student learning, improving educational programs, and meeting state and federal accountability requirements.

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