



for Education in Kansas



Kansas State
Department of
Education

www.ksde.org
#KansasansCan

Background:

The Kansas State Board of Education in October 2015 announced a new vision for education in Kansas — Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

The vision took nearly a year to develop. During that time, Kansans Can became the branded theme for the vision.

Kansas State Department of Education leaders and board members conducted more than 20 community visits across the state with parents, educators and business leaders. During these visits, Kansans shared their thoughts on education; what they believe defines a successful 24-year-old; important characteristics and skills for an employee; and more.

The feedback was compiled into data, which was then taken back into communities across the state to make sure we heard the voices of Kansans.

From there, board members and KSDE staff members identified five outcomes to help measure the progress toward achieving the new vision.



Vision:

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

A successful Kansas High School graduate has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills and civic engagement to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Outcomes for measuring progress:



Social-Emotional growth measured locally



Kindergarten readiness



Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest



High school graduation



Postsecondary success



How do we get there?

“Kansans CAN do amazing things! We teach. We change. We do ... and we do it well for our children in the great state of Kansas.”

— Dustin Springer, Valley Park Elementary School, Overland Park



Social-Emotional Growth

Academics are important. However, they alone don't guarantee a student's success after high school.

Throughout the Community Conversations, Kansans said schools need to place more focus on helping students develop nonacademic skills, such as teamwork, perseverance and critical thinking, so they can be more successful in their postsecondary pursuits. In fact, students who lack these nonacademic skills may find it more difficult to find success 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 and establish and maintain positive relationships. It also helps students and adults make responsible decisions.

Research from the Consortium for the Advancement of Social-Emotional Learning (CASEL) shows that schools that incorporate social-emotional and character development have more student engagement, decreased suspensions and improved academic skills.

The Kansas State Board of Education believes social-emotional growth should be measured locally.



PHOTO: Fort Scott USD 234



Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness is an essential building block for future achievement and academic success. In fact, 90 percent of a child's brain architecture is built before the age of 5.

It is important to measure kindergarten readiness to help teachers meet each student where he or she is academically and socially upon entering kindergarten. An Ages & Stages Questionnaire will be used to obtain that snapshot. The screener won't be used to keep a child from entering kindergarten, and it won't measure a teacher's abilities. Instead, it will be used to provide critical information to families, teachers and administrators. This information can help support data-driven decision-making by school, district and state policymakers who can consider targeted ways to increase readiness.

A KSDE study showed that children who entered kindergarten with strong school readiness skills were more likely to maintain this success at least into third grade.



Photo: Emporia Public Schools USD 253



Individual Plan of Study Focused



Too many times if you ask a student what they plan to do after high school, they'll tell you they are going to college, but they have no idea what they want to study. This can result in wasted dollars and frustration and lead to a student dropping out. That is why it is crucial to begin career exploration and planning earlier in a student's educational experience. This is where an Individual Plan of Study (IPS) comes into play.

All students, beginning in middle school, will develop an IPS based on their career interests. An IPS is both the product a student develops and a process the school implements to guide students in developing future plans.

A student's IPS is developed cooperatively between the student, school staff members and family members.

There are four minimum components of a student's IPS:

- A graduated series of strength finders and career interest inventories to help students identify preference toward career clusters.
- Eighth- through 12th-grade course builder function with course selections based on career interests.
- A general postsecondary plan (*workforce, military, certification program, two- or four-year college*).
- A portable electronic portfolio.

The vision requires that every middle and high school student in Kansas will have an IPS.



High School Graduation

Without a high school diploma, a student has almost no chance of ever achieving the middle class. That is why it is crucial that we make sure every student graduates high school with the skills and credentials needed to pursue postsecondary endeavors.

It is important to increase the percentage of Kansas students who earn at least a high school diploma so we can meet the projected education requirements for our future workforce.

The overall high school graduation rate was 86.9 percent in 2017. This is above the national average, but it still isn't enough. We need to make sure every student graduates with the skills needed to be successful, whatever postsecondary plan he or she selects.

Those without a high school diploma qualify for only 17 percent of all jobs, primarily in sales and office support, food and personal service and blue-collar jobs. Many of these jobs may not provide a living wage or health care benefits.

By 2020, 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require some kind of postsecondary education and/or training.



Photo: Emporia Public Schools USD 253



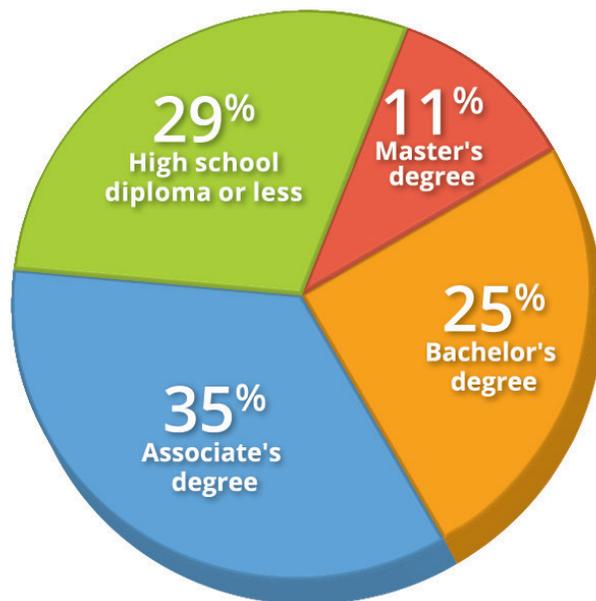
Postsecondary Success

Much like a high school diploma, postsecondary success opens the doors to a wide variety of opportunities. However, it is important to keep in mind that not every student will require a four-year degree. Some students may opt to attend a two-year or technical college or join the military — all of which play a critical role in preparing students for the workforce.

In order to meet the workforce needs in Kansas, the state will need more students completing a credential.

Most new jobs in the future will be “middle skill” jobs — those requiring a diploma, but less than a four-year degree.

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the education demand for jobs in Kansas in 2020 will be:



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Mission

To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

Vision

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Motto

Kansans CAN.

Successful Kansas High School Graduate

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Outcomes for Measuring Progress

- Social-Emotional growth measured locally
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success



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“This is
our
**moon
shot.**”

- *Dr. Randy Watson*
Kansas Commissioner of Education

