

2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

The Path **Forward**

September 4, 2024

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

SUCCESS DEFINED

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

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

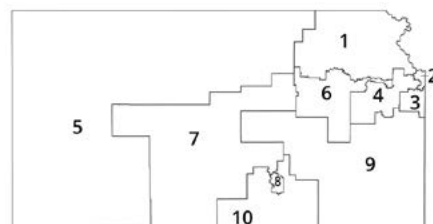
to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

OUTCOMES

- Social-emotional growth
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study
- Civic engagement
- Academically prepared for postsecondary
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success



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Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

Jan. 25, 2024



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Commissioner's Message

Though teacher shortages and increased student mental health needs persist, Kansas schools remain immersed in the work of restoring learning that was lost during the pandemic, while continuing to stay true to the work of the Kansas State Board of Education's vision to lead the world in the success of each student. Our schools have done a tremendous job addressing learning loss, which is reflected in Kansas' latest state assessment results and a decline in chronic absenteeism rates.

Earlier this year, the Kansas State Department of Education relaunched the Kansans Can vision with the introduction of four fundamental practices research shows are critical to the learning needs of every student. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, KSDE staff will work with educators across the state to implement structured literacy, balanced assessments, standards alignment and quality instruction. We will share our progress throughout this journey.

As a result of the State Board's work to achieve the Kansans Can vision over the last eight years, we are seeing exciting movement toward real change for students and families.

With the implementation of a universal screener, our ability to gauge and respond in a more systemic way to the needs of our children entering kindergarten has increased substantially. Additionally, we're seeing an increase in the number of preschool children with IEPs attending a regular early childhood program and receiving the majority of special education and related services in that program.

With our schools' increased focus on student Individual Plans of Study and career exploration, we have seen an increase in the number of students earning postsecondary credentials while still in high school and graduating with a clearer path toward their postsecondary goals. Kansas schools have worked with business and industry to change the perception of technical careers. Students and their families now see career and technical education as leading to viable career paths and a beneficial step in their postsecondary pursuits. That wasn't the conversation eight years ago.

Kansas is experiencing its highest graduation rates in history. This is due to the hard work our schools and teachers have done to keep students engaged in meaningful learning and to help them see a future beyond high school. To that end, Kansas has increased the number of high school graduates who are attending and earning postsecondary degrees and credentials by eight percent since 2015.

We are encouraged by the progress we're seeing in our Kansas education system, but there is still much work to be done. We must continue our efforts to grow the teaching profession and retain our best teachers; to improve student academic achievement while not losing sight of their social-emotional needs addressed through the Kansans Can Competencies; and to provide each student with the supports and resources needed to prepare them for any future they envision.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and teachers as we continue our work to provide the best education system for Kansas students.

Sincerely,

Randy Watson, EdD
Kansas Commissioner of Education

A Successful
School Grad

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KansasCan

Kansas leads the world in

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KSDE Milestones

OCT. 1, 2022–SEPT. 30, 2023

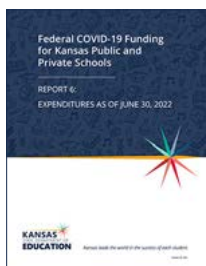
2022

OCTOBER

- 12:** State Board voted to approve the Kansas Purple Star School Designation, recognizing military-friendly schools that meet specific criteria and demonstrate a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces.
- 12:** Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson presented his annual report to the State Board. Postsecondary effectiveness rates have increased by 8% in 6 years.
- 19:** KSDE Great Ideas in Education Conference returns to in-person event.



- 28:** Federal COVID-19 Funding for Kansas Public and Private Schools Report 6: Expenditures as of June 30, 2022, published.



NOVEMBER

- 3:** Natalie Johnson-Berry, a member of the 2022 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team and a restorative justice facilitator at Wyandotte High School, announced as recipient of the Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence.



- 9:** State Board approved new high school graduation requirements that will go into effect with the class of 2028.
- 9:** State Board approves extending the Expanded Emergency Substitute License through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
- 9:** State Board accepted the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education Working Group's mascot reform statement and recommendations.



DECEMBER

- 13:** Outgoing State Board members Janet Waugh, vice chair, District 1; Jean Clifford, District 5; and Ben Jones, District 7, were honored for their service with a reception.



- 15:** Mallory Jacobs, Whitson Elementary School, Topeka Unified School District (USD) 501, was named the 2022 School Counselor of the Year by the Kansas School Counselor Association (KSCA).
- 16:** Hillsboro Elementary School, Durham-Hillsboro-Lehigh USD 410, and Westview Elementary School, Olathe USD 233, were named 2022 National ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Distinguished Schools.

2023

JANUARY

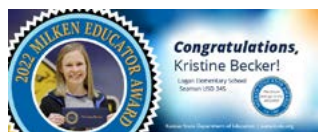
- 10:** Melanie Haas, Overland Park, was elected chair of the Kansas State Board of Education. Newly elected board members Danny Zeck, Leavenworth; Cathy Hopkins, Hays, and Dennis Hershberger, Hutchison, were sworn in.



- 10:** 2023 Horizon Award winners announced.
- 10:** Gov. Kelly established the Early Childhood Transition Task Force to create a framework for consolidating early childhood programming initiatives and funding under the leadership of a new cabinet level position.
- 11:** Federal COVID-19 funding for Kansas Public and Private Schools Report 7: Expenditures as of September 30, 2022, published.
- 12:** U.S. Senate Youth delegates announced: Madison Coyne, of Blue Valley West High School, Blue Valley USD 229, and Sukesh Kamesh, of Kingman-Norwich USD 331.



- 18:** Kristine Becker, Logan Elementary, Seaman USD 345, received the national Milken Educator Award.



FEBRUARY

- 14:** The State Board and the Kansas Board of Regents approved a joint resolution to encourage Kansas high schools to accept for credit the specific courses that the Board of Regents has approved for system-wide transfer regardless of which public postsecondary educational institution delivered the course.
- 24:** KSDE announced contract with IXL Learning to provide schools free access to IXL Math, a supplemental instructional math program.

MARCH

- 14:** State Board voted to support Senate Bill 66 calling for Kansas to join the Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact.
- 26:** 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year finalists announced for regions 2, 3 and 4.
- 27:** Federal COVID-19 Funding for Kansas Public and Private Schools Report 8: Expenditures as of Dec. 31, 2022, published.

APRIL

- 1:** 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year finalists announced for region 1.
- 11:** Fort Leavenworth USD 207, Derby USD 260 and Mulvane USD 263 recognized with Kansas Purple Star designation.



- 13:** There were 261 high school seniors named 2023 Kansas CTE Scholars.
- 23:** KSDE launched an optional second grade reading assessment pilot.
- 30:** It was announced that 91 Kansas schools were named recipients of the 2022 Challenge Awards.

MAY

- 7:** There were 529 high school seniors, representing the top 1% academically, recognized during the 2023 Governor's Scholars event in Topeka.
- 9:** State Board members adopted new goals for the period of May 2023–December 2024.
- Enhance the number and quality of educators in every district.
 - Enhance each student for postsecondary opportunities and success.
 - Enhance engagement and partnerships with families, communities, businesses and policy stakeholders.
 - Provide a safe and secure environment to attend school.

- 9:** KSDE launched a new seclusion evaluation tool.

- 10:** KSDE receives State Board's approval to apply to start a Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

- 11:** 2023 Presidential Scholars announced: Elizabeth "Lizzie" Rushing Place, of Leawood, a senior at Blue Valley North High School, Blue Valley Unified School District 229, and Luke Wen-Tsu Chen, of Overland Park, also a senior at Blue Valley North High School.



- 26:** Beloit Junior-Senior High School, Beloit USD 273 named 2023 National School of Character.

- 26:** 2023 Sunflower Summer Program launched with 119 participating venues across Kansas.

JUNE

- 13:** KSDE relaunched Kansans Can vision with introduction of Four Fundamentals.
- Standards alignment
 - Balanced assessments
 - High-quality instruction
 - Structure literacy
- 14:** The State Board approved updated English language arts standards.

- 27:** The Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force kicked off a nine-city community engagement tour to gather feedback on how the state is administering early childhood programs and how Kansans interact with the state's governance system.



JULY

- 13:** 2023 Sunflower Summer Family Campout at Eisenhower State Park hosted 136 participants; Kansas teachers delivered education sessions.
- 25:** Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Pilot Program launched with six districts and 13 apprentices.



Sunflower Summer

The Sunflower Summer educational program has kept 397,658 students engaged in learning throughout the summer months and helped families develop stronger bonds and create lasting memories since its inception in 2021.



Sunflower Summer, funded by federal COVID-19 money, was created at the request of Kansas educators as a way to provide opportunities for student learning during the summer months and to encourage family engagement after the COVID-19 pandemic.

“At the time, Commissioner Randy Watson asked us, ‘What do kids need at this time to keep them excited about learning?’ And I said, ‘They need to go to the zoo, museums and parks,’” said Dyane Smokorowski, also known as “Mrs. Smoke,” coordinator of digital literacy for Wichita USD 259. “My dream was for them to explore the wonderful educational opportunities that were available in their communities and across the state. That was the seed that launched it all.”

Smokorowski and her team members at Wichita USD 259 were already familiar with a similar concept. During the 2020-2021 school year, she and her team worked with community partners to offer virtual field trips, known as EdVentures.

The EdVentures provide a full day of age-appropriate presentations for students in pre-K through 12th grade via online technology. Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson helped host one for Kansas Day.

Smokorowski shared some of her community partner contacts to help launch Sunflower Summer.

“The most wonderful part of it all was many of these attractions were able to sustain and even thrive because they had patrons come to see them,” she said about Sunflower Summer. “From what I understand, Sunflower Summer has been a true lifeline to many attractions across the state that were worried if they would survive the pandemic.”

The program has engaged students in learning and brought families together.

Sunflower Summer was a collaboration between the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research, and Greenbush Education Service Center.

The program included an app that adults could download to phones or tablet devices. Adults were able to register their family members, and each Kansas child pre-K through 18 years of age, as well as students in 18- to 21-year-old programs, and up to two accompanying adults were able to access one ticket voucher each to participating attractions in the app at no charge.



Families were greeted at the campsite by Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson. Campers participated in educational sessions lead by Kansas teachers and numerous outdoor activities like kayaking, fishing, archery, hayrack rides and crafts. Families also were able to visit with 2023 Miss Kansas Courtney Wages, of Wichita, and indulge in fulfilling meals and homemade ice cream.



Attractions included museums, zoos, historic landmarks, state parks and more.

During the course of the 2023 program, there were 322,314 participating visitors, of which 192,061 were students and 130,253 were adults.

More attraction venues were added each year. The 2023 summer program also included Story Adventures (interactive adventures that combined the fun of reading with exploring); mini camp nights; summer camps and enrichment; and special events, such as the Wichita Wind Surge Sunflower Sundays.

A highlight of the Sunflower Summer program was the Sunflower Summer Family Campout. The 2023 camping event took place July 13-14 at Eisenhower State Park. Thirty-four families comprised of 61 adults and 75 children – 136 in total – participated. Tents were provided for all families for the campout.

Families were greeted at the campsite by Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson. Campers participated in educational sessions lead by Kansas teachers and numerous outdoor activities like kayaking, fishing, archery, hay rack rides and crafts. Families also were able to visit with 2023 Miss Kansas Courtney Wages, of Wichita, and indulge in fulfilling meals and homemade ice cream.

During the course of the Sunflower Summer program, about \$7.8 million was expended to pay for venue visits, outdoor camps, special events and program implementation.

The 2023 program, which started on May 26 and ended on Aug. 13, had the highest number of participating visitors. Overall, the 2023 program saw a 353% increase in participating visitors from 2021 and a 58% increase from 2022. The last week of the 2023 summer program had the highest number of attendees at venues. There were 86,438 visits during that week.

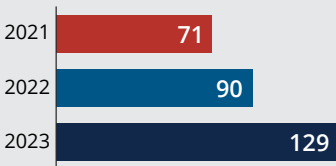
The total number of participating visitors to venues during the three-year time period was 597,006 – 397,658 children and 199,348 adults.

This was the last summer that KSDE will administer the program. However, Sunflower Summer will continue in 2024 and 2025 thanks to the Kansas Legislature allocating \$6 million for it. The program will transfer to the Kansas Department of Commerce’s Tourism Division.

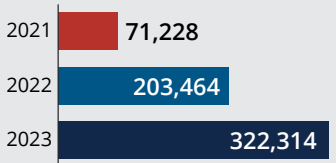


Sunflower Summer By the Numbers

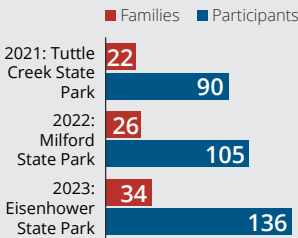
Number of Venues



Total Participating Visitors



Sunflower Summer Family Campout



Overview

of Vision Outcomes

Kansas schools continue to move forward after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with readjustments that include an increased focus on helping students regain learning that was lost during that period.

Thanks to the persistence and dedication of all who work in Kansas schools, we're beginning to see some exciting changes. The 2022-2023 Kansas math assessment scores are the highest the state has seen since 2017, graduation rates are at their highest, more students are pursuing and earning postsecondary credentials, more schools are meeting federal target indicators, and the number of chronically absent students is decreasing.

To support its path forward, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas State Board of Education have identified four fundamental practices research has shown to be critical to student success, which will help move Kansas closer to achieving its vision of leading the world in the success of each student.

The original outcomes are still the backbone of the vision and will continue to be used to measure progress – kindergarten readiness; social-emotional growth; civic engagement; Individual Plan of Study (IPS); academically prepared for postsecondary; graduation; and postsecondary success. However, when implemented with fidelity, these four fundamentals will positively impact the work around the measured outcomes.

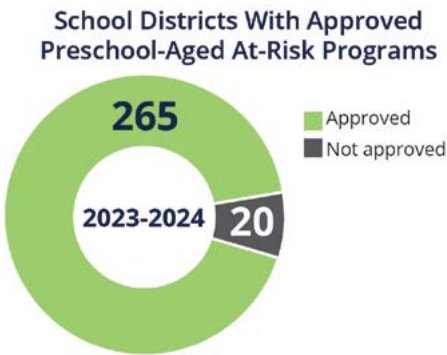
- **Standards alignment:** The process of generating coherent, effective and equitable instruction by ensuring curriculum and assessments correspond to a consistent set of rigorous learning goals. Standards alignment is effective when standards are developmentally appropriate and build on one another.
- **Balanced assessments:** A coordinated system of assessments aligned to standards and success criteria for the whole child. The assessments and assessment processes are used to inform instruction, measure progress, specify additional learner needs, guide in-depth supports, indicate growth toward competencies and provide information regarding outcomes.
- **Structured literacy:** Emphasizes highly explicit and systematic teaching of all important components of literacy. These components include both foundational skills (e.g., decoding, spelling) and higher-level literacy skills (e.g., reading comprehension, written expression). Structured literacy also emphasizes oral language abilities essential to literacy development, including phonemic awareness, sensitivity to speech sounds in oral language, and the ability to manipulate those sounds.
- **High-quality instruction:** Curricula, teaching practices and learning environments are standards-based, evidence-based, engaging, differentiated, culturally responsive and data-driven.

KSDE staff members have created the School Improvement Work Group to take a more in-depth look at these four areas and build a focused system of supports for schools that will benefit Kansas students.

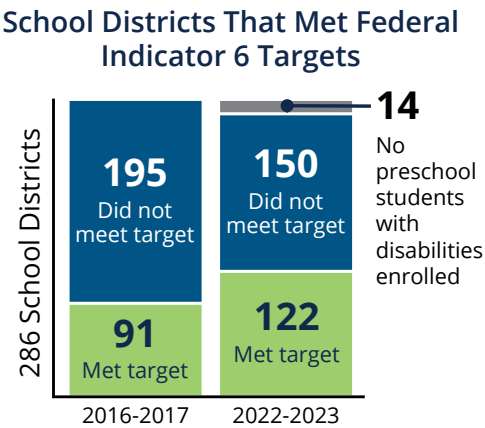
Here is a look at each of the outcome areas and the progress the state has made during the period of Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023:

Kindergarten Readiness

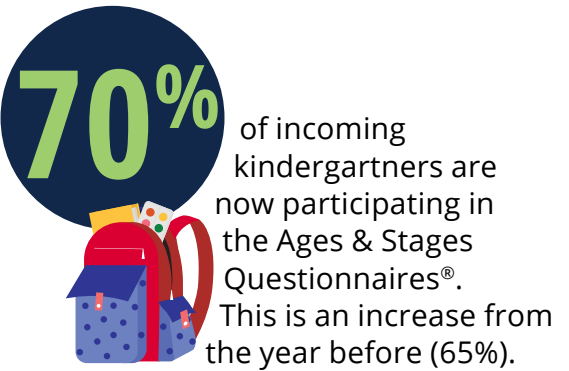
A record number of Kansas school districts (265 out of 285 districts) now have approved at-risk preschool programs. Districts are looking at preschool as a strategy for improving kindergarten readiness. There are currently 22,000 preschool students in Kansas, which is trending back toward pre-pandemic levels.



More Kansas school districts are meeting federal target Indicator 6, which measures the extent to which preschool students with disabilities receive the majority of their special education and other related services in the least restrictive environment.



More incoming kindergarten students are participating in the Ages and Stages Questionnaires®, which provide a snapshot of a student’s developmental milestones. Statewide data shows that fine motor skills are one area that needs improvement.



Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson visited students at Wallace USD 241.

Social-Emotional Growth

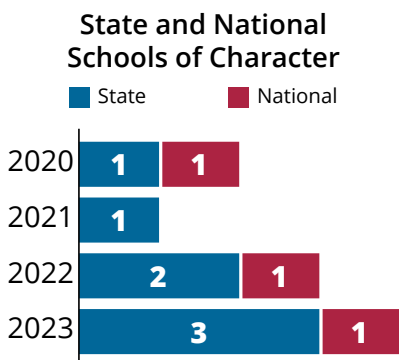
Well-implemented social-emotional learning programs and good mental health are key to a student’s success in education and life.

Since implementing the vision, which includes social-emotional growth, Kansas educators and schools have reported positive academic impacts, fewer dropouts, a decrease in discipline problems, improvements in mental health and an increase in graduation rates.

Social-emotional growth (SEG) is the product of the Social Emotional Character Development (SECD) standards for Kansas schools, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process by which children and adults learn how to understand and manage emotions, develop care and concern for others, set and achieve positive goals and make responsible decisions. Together, SECD and SEL delivered in a healthy climate result in SEG.

Many of the vision outcomes have a tie to social-emotional growth, according to a case study on the development and implementation of social-emotional learning integrated with career and workforce development.

The number of Kansas schools being nationally recognized for character development through the State Schools of Character program is growing.



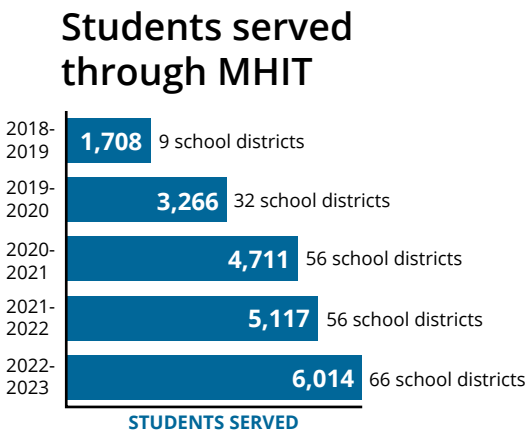
School counselors play a major role in the well-being of a student’s mental health, as well as the implementation of the IPS in Kansas.

Most recently, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists worked with KSDE staff members and the Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ (KSPHQ) to update the Kansas Schools Prevention, Intervention, Reintegration and Postvention Toolkit. This work was implemented on the request of Kansas School Mental Health Advisory Council (SMHAC), which was created by the State Board of Education in 2017 to advise it of unmet needs in the area of mental health.

The toolkit is a KSDE guidance document that schools can use to build the required local-level policies, practices and procedures when addressing suicide concerns in their schools and community. The Kansans Can Competency Framework, which is a partnership between KSDE and developers Dr. Amy Gaumer Erickson and Dr. Pattie Noonan, supports educators in systematically embedding intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies into course content.

In the past six years, Kansas educators from 282 districts have participated in professional learning, accessed or implemented competency or instruction and/or facilitated students’ reflection on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. During the 2022-2023 school year, K-2 and third- through sixth-grade curricula in self-efficacy and self-regulation were disseminated across Kansas. Educators in 190 districts accessed these.

In summer 2022, the State Board of Education recommended the continuation and expansion of Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT) to help address challenges schools were experiencing through increases in students with mental health needs. The MHIT program has employed more than 184 liaisons to help.



Civic Engagement

When people think about civic engagement, they often think about the obvious forms of social participation – voting, volunteering and donating money. However, civic engagement is so much more. It also involves membership in civic and community organizations, public speaking, petitioning, mentoring and assisting a neighbor – things that lead to a stronger community, state, nation and world.

Civic engagement doesn't just take place in communities; it can also take place in the classroom.

KSDE has been recognizing schools that actively involve students in civic engagement opportunities through the Civic Advocacy Network (CAN) since 2018. The ultimate goal of the program is to promote civic engagement as part of all pre-K-12 students' experiences. Schools that meet the award criteria for CAN receive one of two designations – School of Excellence or School of Promising Practice. In 2023, 10 Kansas schools were named CAN award winners.

KSDE also has a program, called Kansas CTE Scholars, that recognizes seniors heavily involved in career and technical education (CTE) fields of study. Applicants have to have a civic engagement project or 100 community service hours as one of the six criteria to be named a CTE Scholar.

In 2023, CTE Scholars recorded **more than 26,100 hours** of community service and working on civic engagement projects.

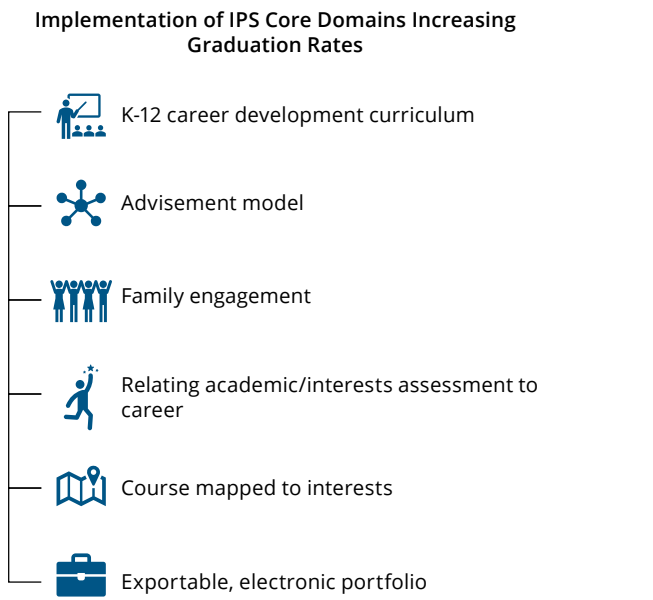


First-grade students from Heatherstone Elementary School, Olathe USD 233, shared a presentation with State Board members on why Kansas farmers and agriculture are important. The first graders spent a year using project-based learning to research agriculture. Heatherstone Elementary School received a Civic Advocacy Network (CAN) award for civic engagement in 2023.

Individual Plan of Study

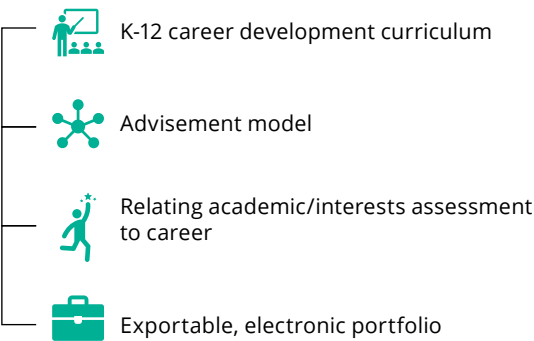
A recent KSDE survey shows that districts successful in implementing a strong Individual Plan of Study (IPS) for each student have higher graduation rates and better postsecondary effective rates.

- Significant positive correlations are found between recent graduation rates and a district's level of implementation of six IPS core domains:



- Significant positive correlations were found between recent postsecondary effective rates and a district's level of implementation of four IPS core domains:

Implementation of IPS Core Domains Increasing Postsecondary Effective Rates



To help put Kansas students on the path to success and postsecondary readiness, KSDE and the State Board are increasing the implementation of, and student participation in, IPS.

An IPS helps students identify their personal strengths and career interests and helps align their educational experience to meet those interests. Each Kansas student in eighth to 12th grade should have an IPS in place, and it should be developed cooperatively between the student, the student's counselor, teachers and family members.

KSDE and the regional Educational Laboratory (REL) have partnered to develop tools to help Kansas school districts better implement the IPS. Part of this process is developing data collection instruments and processes to assess IPS implementation and student participation and engagement in IPS activities.



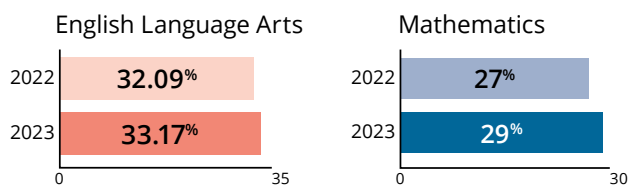
Evelyn Irigoyen-Aguirre, a college adviser through the Kansas State College Advising Corps (KSCAC), worked with a student at Garden City High School.

Academically Prepared for Postsecondary

Kansas math assessment scores are the highest since 2017, showing that Kansas schools are working hard to ensure every Kansas student has a solid foundation for a successful future.

The State Board of Education and KSDE in 2022 challenged Kansas schools to move more students out of Level 1 on the state assessments. And Kansas assessment scores in ELA and math show that this is happening.

The number of students across the state who scored proficient (levels 3 and 4) on the Kansas State Assessment.



From implementing the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot and helping teachers provide appropriate supports for their students to allocating funds from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) to address early literacy, KSDE and the State Board have implemented initiatives to set students up for success.

In 2021, KSDE and the State Board allocated \$15 million to address early literacy. This initiative – called Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS™) – is a professional learning course for instructions of reading, spelling and related skills. It trains educators in the science of reading. LETRS™ training is available for free to educators in state-accredited systems.

While a large number of educators have taken the LETRS™ training, Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson said more need to participate to help students recover skills they lost or didn't receive during the pandemic.



More than **7,800** Kansas educators have completed (LETRS™) training.

The protocol for the KSDE Dyslexia Initiative Universal Screening was updated for the 2023-2024 school year. Updates were placed into the KSDE Dyslexia Handbook. The agency also offered four professional development sessions on overcoming dyslexia. The sessions were recorded and made available to educators who couldn't attend.

In February 2023, KSDE announced it had contracted with IXL Learning to provide schools with a free supplemental instructional program that helps students improve their math skills. A bill passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2022 appropriated \$4 million for a virtual math program. IXL Learning was awarded a two-year contract.

IXL's math curriculum, along with professional development for educators, is now available at no charge to all Kansas accredited public and private schools, K-12, through June 30, 2024.

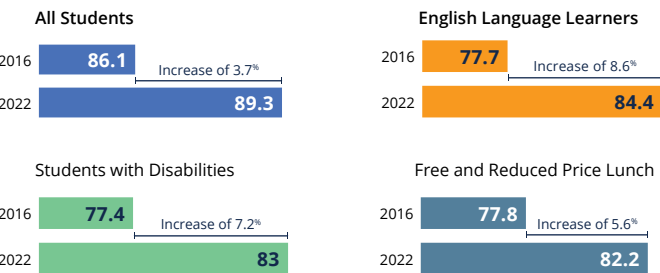
In an effort to bridge the gap between early literacy skills and third-grade comprehension skills, KSDE piloted an optional second-grade reading assessment from April 23-May 5, 2023, to measure both reading fundamentals and comprehension. The assessment is aligned to K-2 Kansas state reading standards and may be offered again in the future.



Students at Burlington Learning Center, Burlington USD 244, enjoyed a snack and reading.

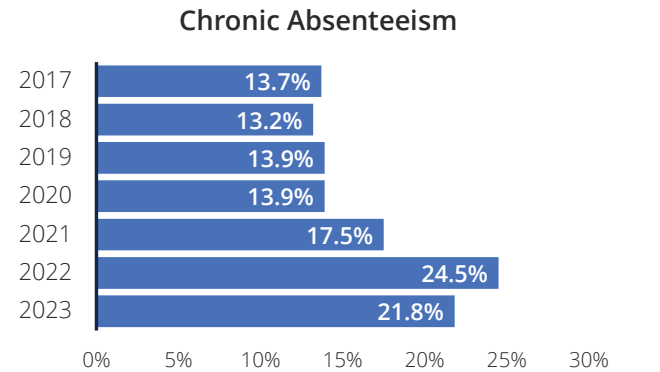
Graduation

As KSDE staff members continued to work with schools to implement each student’s IPS with fidelity and the State Board updated graduation requirements, the graduation rate continued to rise across the state, especially in special population groups.



Things have started to look a little more normal in schools after the height of the pandemic, and the number of K-12 students who were considered chronically absent from school decreased. Chronic absenteeism means a student misses 10% or more of school for both excused and unexcused reasons. A student who is chronically absent has a higher risk of not graduating high school and possibly becoming a high school dropout.

The chronic absenteeism rate has started to trend downward again.

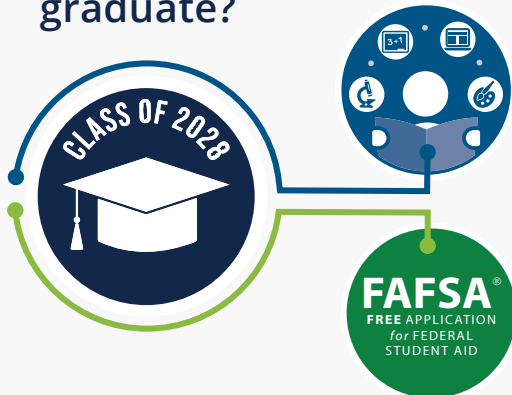


State Board members in November 2022 approved new graduation requirements for all students, maintaining the minimum graduation requirement of 21 units but giving districts the option to use mastery and competency to award credits. The new graduation requirements will take effect with the class of 2028.



Angel Lira graduated from the Kansas School for the Deaf in May 2023.

What will the class of 2028 need to graduate?



Two or more postsecondary assets from an established list that includes career/real-world and academic assets that are aligned with their IPS.

All students will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). However, schools, students and families will be able to opt out.

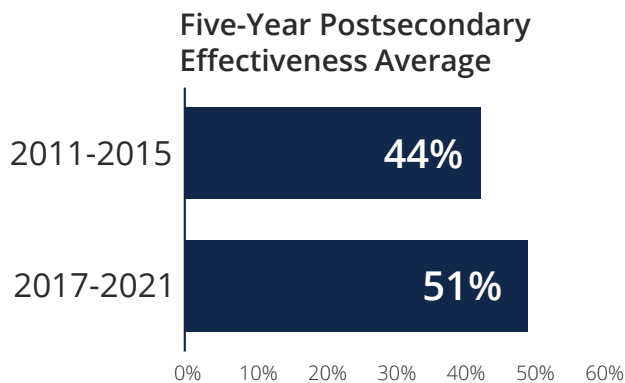
Postsecondary Success

Our work to help each student become a successful adult doesn't end after high school.

The postsecondary effectiveness rate is a good measure of how students are doing after graduation. This measures the percentage of students who are pursuing or have earned a postsecondary degree/certification two years after high school graduation.

The goal is to have a 70-75% effective rate.

The five-year postsecondary effectiveness average increased by 16% in a six-year span.



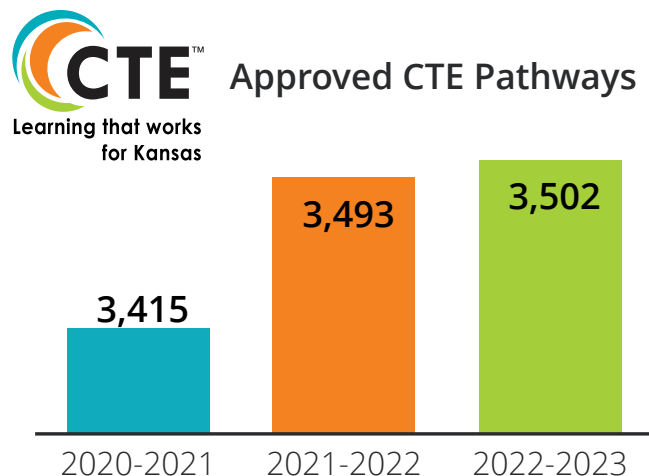
Wichita South High School students were among the dozens of students who participated in the Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Legislative Day 2023 CTE Showcase at the Capitol on Feb. 20, 2023.

Kansas needs 73% of workers to have a postsecondary certificate or degree, with about 37% needing a bachelor's degree or higher and 36% needing a certificate or associate degree.

More students are earning college credits while in high school, according to the Kansas Board of Regents. During the past six years, there has been a 14.5% increase in the number of students who took postsecondary courses while in high school (including dual credit, concurrent, Excel in CTE, etc.) Just from 2022 to 2023, there was a 6.8% increase - from 33,519 to 35,785.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs can help students prepare for a successful and fulfilling life after high school. In fact, eight years after their expected graduation rate, students who focused on CTE courses while in high school had higher median annual earnings than students who didn't focus on CTE, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The number of high school students participating in CTE courses in Kansas is on the rise, along with the number of approved CTE pathways.



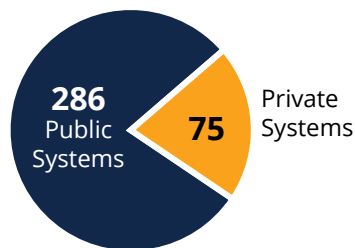
Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA)

Accrediting school districts/systems is an important function of the State Board of Education. This ensures systems are accountable for implementing effective procedures and achieving good results.

Offering support to each system is an important function of KSDE and helps ensure systems are properly prepared to go through the accreditation process.

The Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) model started with the 2017-2018 school year. However, after meeting with stakeholders and systems to gather feedback, the KSDE Accreditation and Design team made some changes to the KESA process.

Currently, there are 361 systems in KESA.



Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the Outside Visitation Team model is transitioning into a peer review model. Systems can select from three ways to obtain the peer review – a regional peer review at a regional service center, a traditional peer review with a current OVT team and model or a like-system peer review where two or three similar systems serve as peer reviewers for one another.

- During the 2022-2023 school year, 157 public systems and 22 private systems were reviewed for accreditation. Out of those, two private schools and 22 public schools were conditionally accredited.
- Since the 2017-2018 school year, out of 361 systems, a total of 40 systems have been conditionally accredited.

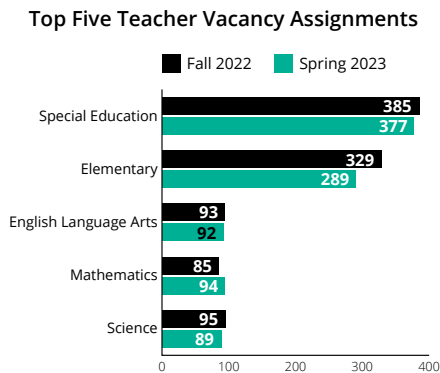
In August 2023, State Board members approved the 2023-2024 school year as a “Learning Year” for accreditation. During this time, systems will continue to collect artifacts and evidence focused on the four fundamental areas (structured literacy, balances assessment, standards alignment and high-quality instruction); meet with a KSDE regional executive; and engage in peer reviews.



Jay Scott, director of KSDE's Accreditation and Design (AD) team, presented to Kansas State Board of Education members during their September 2023 meeting in Topeka. The State Board recognized the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) for their work in accrediting schools through the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) process.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many states to consider bold moves to help address teacher and substitute teacher shortages. Kansas was no different.



Total of all reported vacancies:

- Filled: 262
- Not filled: 1,634



Aspiring teachers posed for a photograph with Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson on July 25, 2023, at the W. Frank Barton School of Business on the Wichita State University campus. KSDE announced the Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship program during a news conference held at the School of Business. Apprentices from six Kansas school districts are participating in the apprenticeship pilot program during the 2023-2024 school year. The Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship program should be statewide for the 2024-2025 school year.

KSDE announced the Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship program in July 2023.

Thirteen apprentices, sponsored by six Kansas school districts, are participating in a pilot program that combines the rigor and training of a registered apprenticeship with specialized education for individuals who want to become teachers.

School districts participating in the Kansas Registered Teacher Apprenticeship pilot program are:

- Salina USD 305, three apprentices.
- Dodge City USD 433, one apprentice.
- Auburn-Washburn USD 437, three apprentices.
- Tonganoxie USD 464, two apprentices.
- Topeka USD 501, three apprentices.
- Attica USD 511, one apprentice.

During the program, the aspiring teacher works alongside an experienced educator, serving as a paid apprentice in a real classroom setting while earning a bachelor's degree in a teacher training program at a university or college accredited by KSDE. The pilot apprenticeship program will help ensure administrative processes are in place to open a statewide program during the 2024-2025 school year.

In May 2023, the State Board of Education voted to extend the Expanded Modified Emergency Substitute License through June 2025. The Expanded Modified Emergency Substitute License requirements include a high school diploma; the completion of substitute training modules; a background check; and an application and fee. The license has the same limitation as an emergency substitute with 60 college credit hours, meaning the licensee is limited to 25 days in the same assignment and no more than 75 days during a semester.

The State Board in September 2023 voted to remove the Principle of Learning and Teaching (PLT) pedagogy exam as a requirement for teacher licensure. This took effect immediately after State Board members approved it.

Board members also at the same time approved establishing a process through the Licensure Review Committee to address educators who completed Kansas-approved teacher preparation programs but haven't passed the required content exam after two attempts to qualify for a standard Kansas teaching license. The KSDE Teacher Licensure team is in the process of developing this.

In another move to reduce barriers of getting qualified teachers into the classroom, Kansas joined the Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact. The compact pertains to teachers who move to Kansas from other states that also are members of the compact. The compact allows the KSDE Licensure Team to process applications faster.

Under the compact, a qualified licensee requests a Kansas license based on a license currently held from another state. The licensee then undergoes a KSDE background check, and the agency determines the most appropriate, equivalent license to issue.

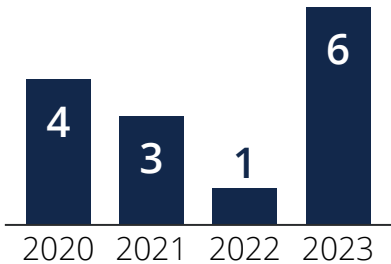
Kansans Can Star Recognition Program

The number of Kansas districts being recognized for their hard work in ensuring that each student is successful is on the rise.

Since 2020, KSDE and the State Board have been recognizing district success in outcome measures Kansans said they value through the Kansans Can Star Recognition Program.

There has been growth in several award areas, including the Commissioner's Award with Highest Distinction. When the program first began, only four districts received this top honor. This year, there are six, the highest number since the program was implemented.

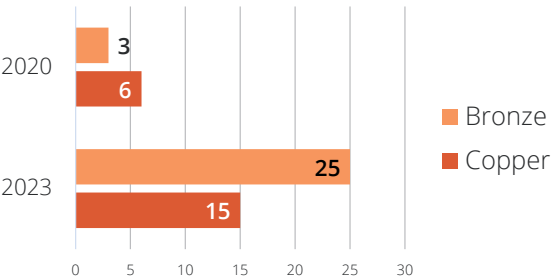
Commissioner's Award with Highest Distinction



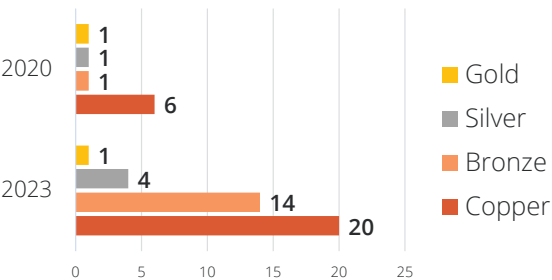
Districts can receive gold, silver, bronze and copper in quantitative measures (academically prepared for postsecondary; high school graduation and postsecondary success) and qualitative measures (social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, IPS and civic engagement).

District recognition in quantitative measures is automatically calculated by KSDE based on collected district data. Districts must apply to be recognized in qualitative measures.

Kindergarten Readiness



Individual Plan of Study



The Kansans Can Star Recognition Program honors Kansas school districts for achievements in the outcome measures Kansans said they value. The Commissioner's Award recognizes districts that outperform their predicted postsecondary effectiveness rate above a .40 standard deviation. There also are the Commissioner's Award with Honors and the Commissioner's Honor with Highest Distinction. Watson visits districts that receive the Commissioner's Award with Highest Distinction.

The Path Forward

We have learned a lot since the vision was first announced in 2015. There have been successes and lessons learned along the way. Rest assured that educators, administrators, staff, parents and community members are deeply committed to reaching the vision. And, we are on the path forward.

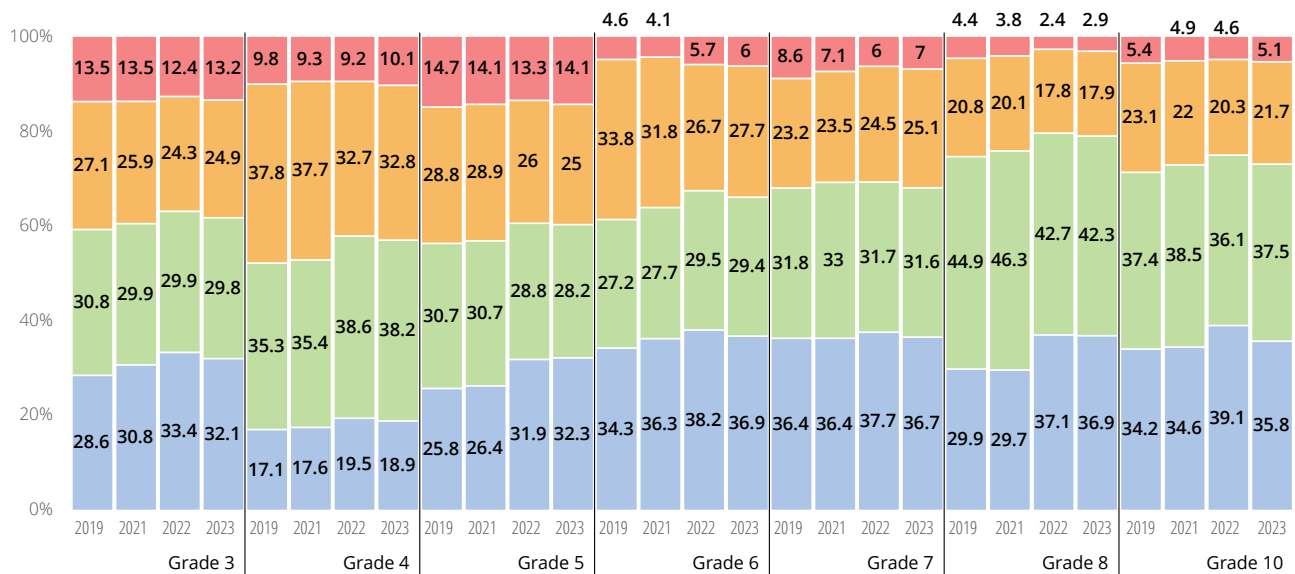
School mental health teams from across Kansas attended the School Mental Health Awareness Day on Feb. 26, 2023, at the Kansas Capitol. The event is intended to communicate the importance of support for school-based mental health.

2023 Academic and Cognitive Preparation

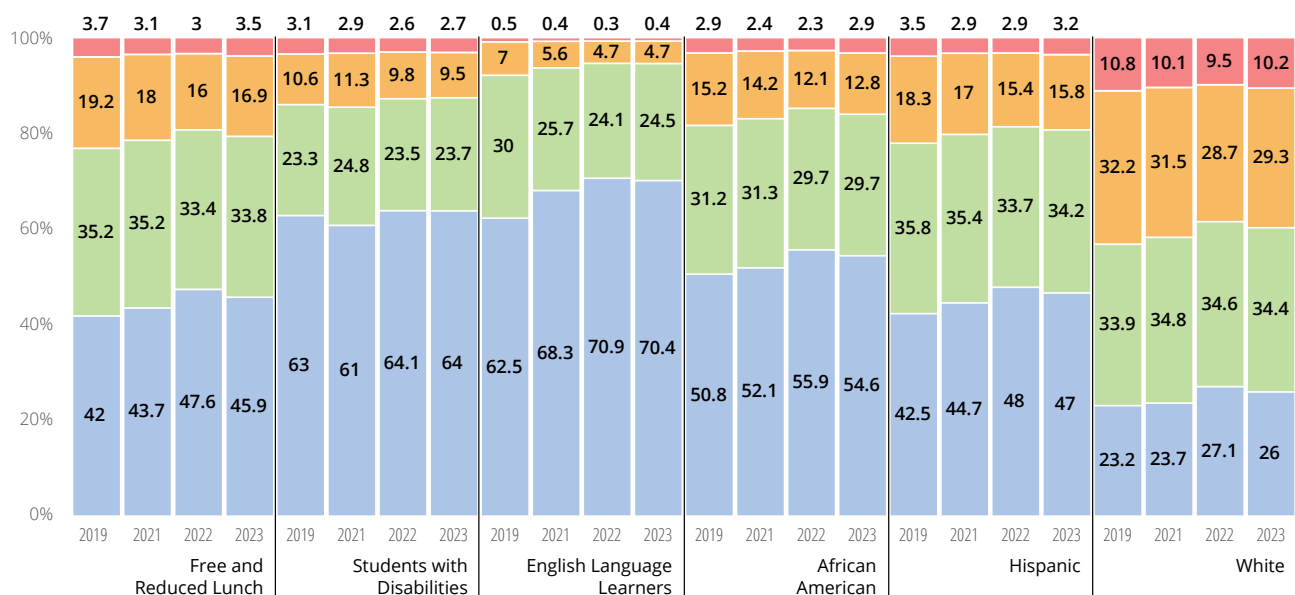
The Kansas assessment student performances are scored using four levels:

- **Level 1:** A student at Level 1 shows a limited ability to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness.
- **Level 2:** A student at Level 2 shows a basic ability to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness.
- **Level 3:** A student at Level 3 shows an effective ability to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness.
- **Level 4:** A student at Level 4 shows an excellent ability to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness.

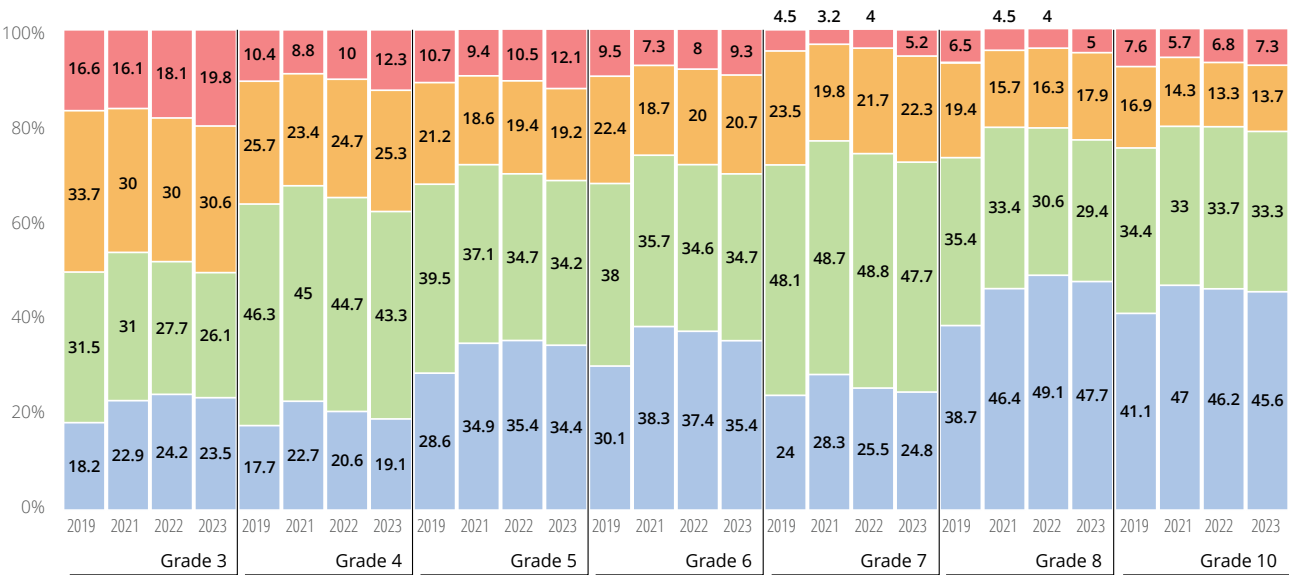
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY GRADE



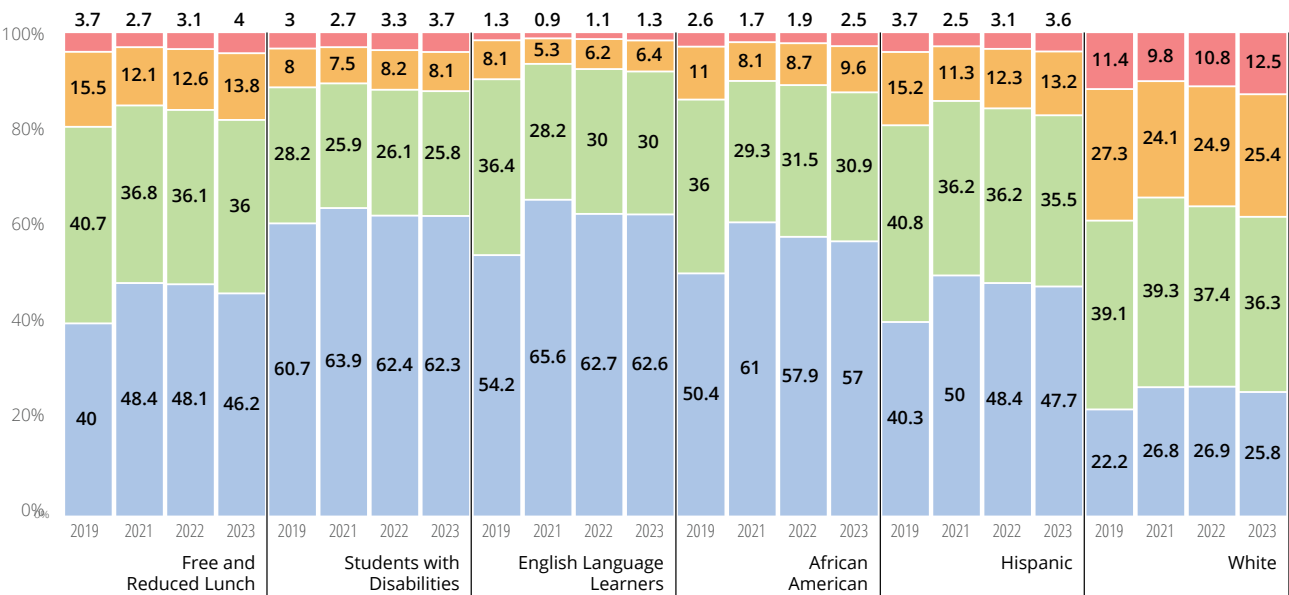
BY SUBGROUP



MATH
BY GRADE



BY SUBGROUP



Education Summary

Public School Characteristics



Number enrolled
(headcount enrollment)

484,068



Number of Title I
schools

651

School District Characteristics



Number of school districts

286



Number of schools

1,318

Teachers



Average
age

42.9



Average years of
experience

13



Number of full-time
equivalency (FTE) teachers*

35,853

* Includes special education teachers.

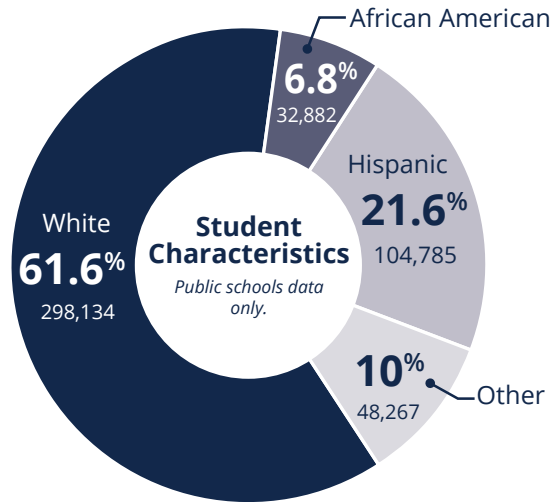


Average teacher
salary **

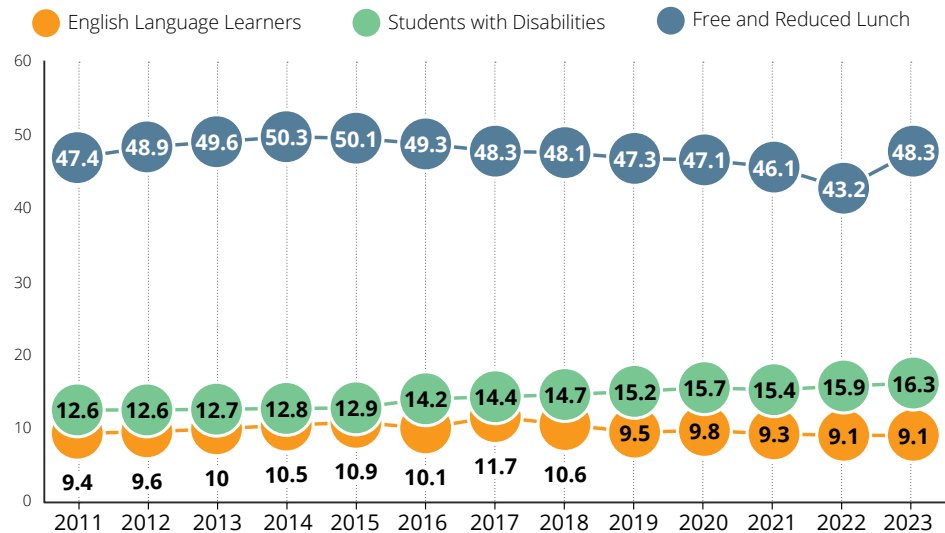
\$62,646

** Includes supplemental and summer school
salaries and fringe benefits.

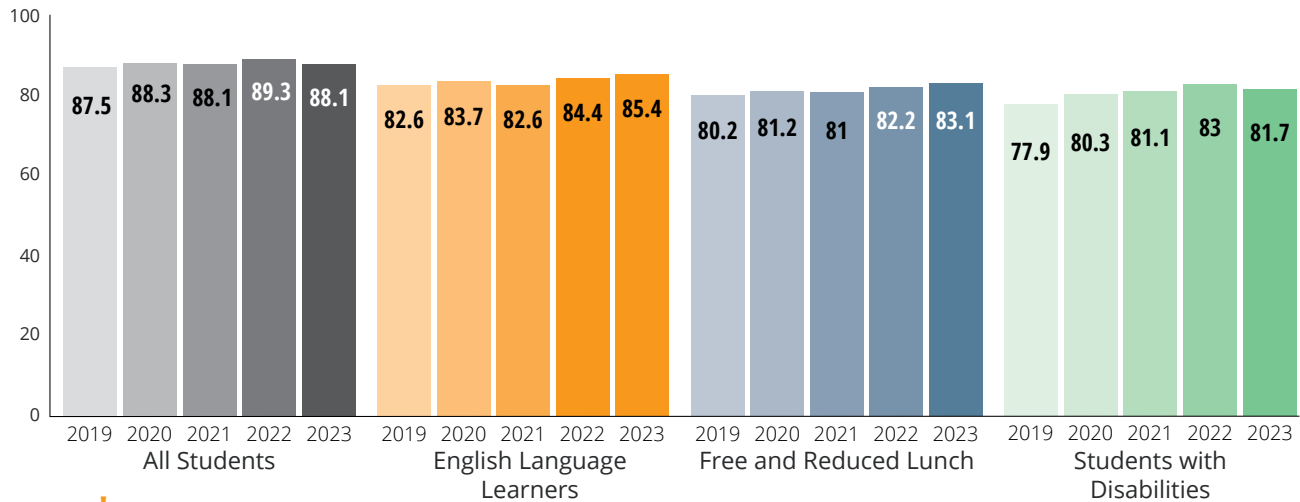
Students



Student Population Subgroups



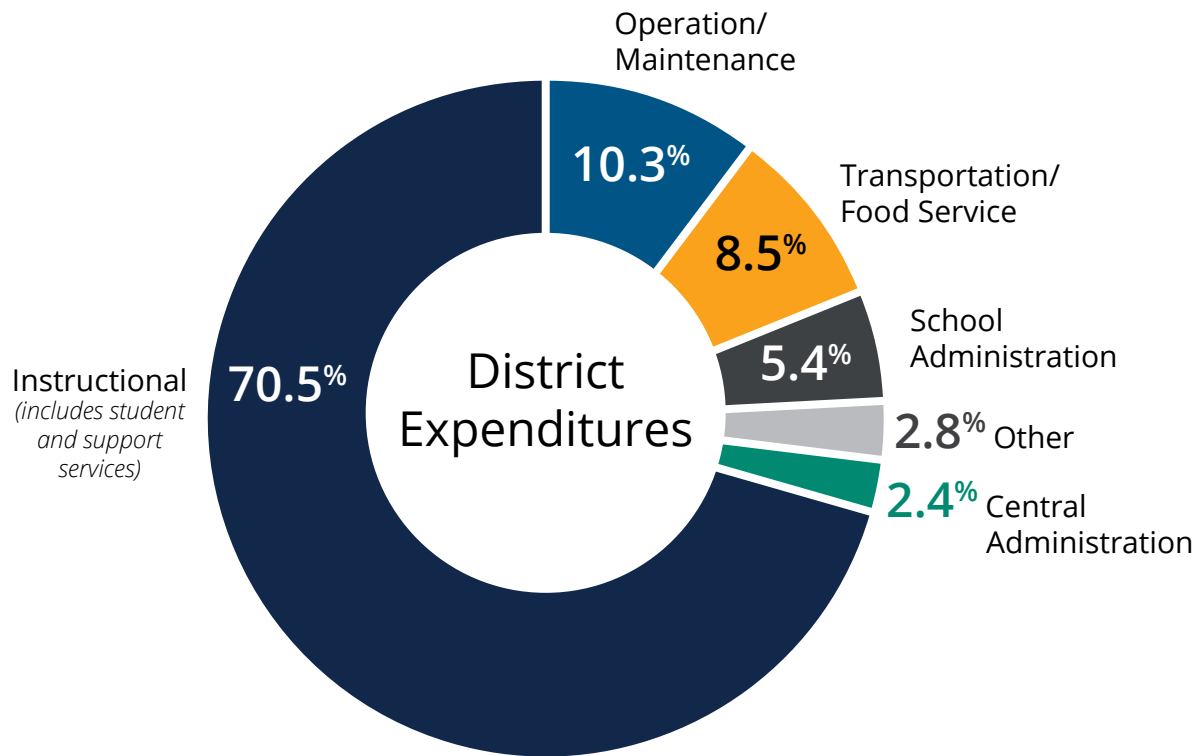
Graduation Subgroups[†]



[†] All students in public and private schools in Kansas.

District Fiscal Summary

Expenditures

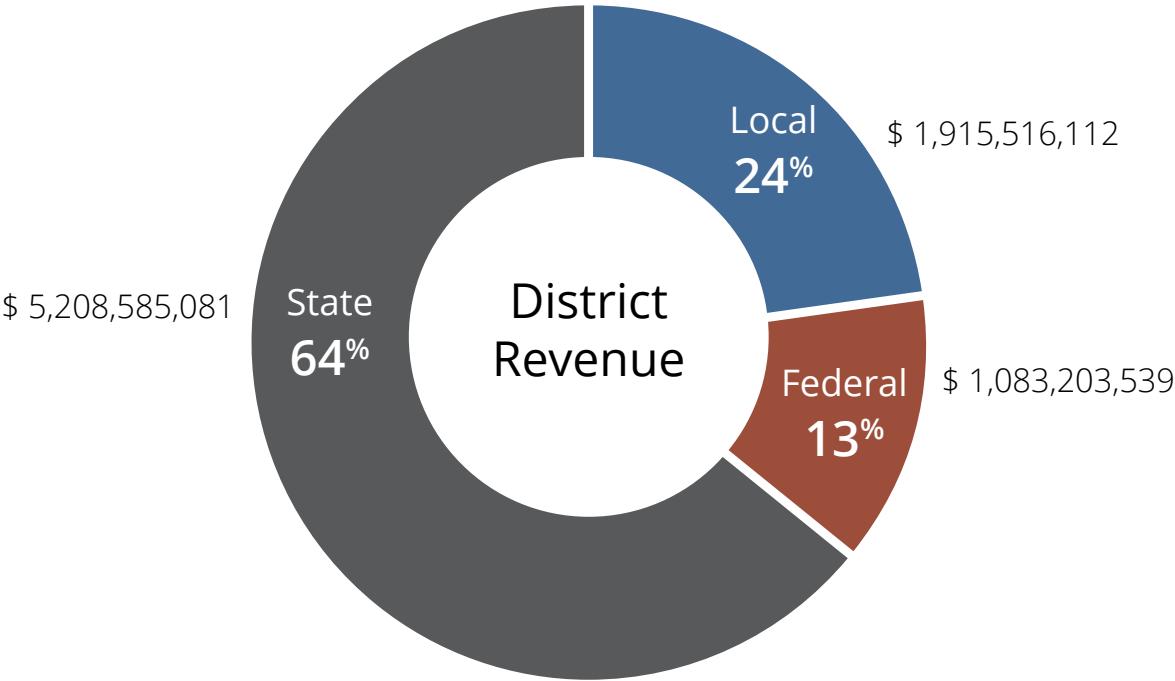


Current operating expenditures	\$ 6,974,933,552
Current operating expenditures per pupil*	\$ 15,001
Total nonoperating expenditures**	\$ 1,232,371,180
Total expenditures	\$ 8,207,304,732
Total expenditures per pupil	\$ 17,652

* Based on FTE of 464,957.0

** Bond, interest, capital outlay

Revenue



For more information, contact:

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