The time stamps refer to the KSDE Livemedia Channel YouTube video for this meeting

03:16 starts

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 14, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. Chair Hopkins read the mission statement for the Board and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:
Mrs. Betty Arnold (on Zoom)
Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky
Mrs. Melanie Haas
Mr. Dennis Hershberger
Mrs. Cathy Hopkins, Chair
Dr. Beryl New
Mrs. Connie O'Brien
Mrs. Debby Potter
Mr. Jim Porter
Mr. Danny Zeck, Vice Chair
Mr. Mark Ferguson, Board Attorney and Commissioner Watson were in attendance at the Board table.

Approval of the MINUTES for September 9 & 10, 2025

Minutes motions 7:00

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve the minutes for the September 9 & 10, 2025, Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.**

MINUTES for Special Meeting of September 25, 2025

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2025, Special Meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0.**

AGENDA

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the agenda for September 9 & 10, 2025. Mr. Porter

seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Agenda and consent motion 7:45

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions.
b. Act on licensure waivers.
c. Approve date for Board meeting in November of 2026.

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Citizen's Open Forum

8:30

Chair Hopkins opened the Citizen's Forum and invited the following people to speak to the Board:

1. Dr. Shane Kirchner, President, Kansas Association of Private Colleges of Teacher Education, invited the Board to the upcoming conference of KAPCTE which is the 7th of November.
2. Board member Debby Potter, with Board member Dennis Hershberger, spoke about the life and tragic death of Charlie Kirk and she urged all students to continue to share their thoughts and opinions with each other, without the need for violence. Mrs. Potter offered a prayer of thanks for Mr. Kirk's life.

Overview of Tax Credit for Low Income Student Scholarship Program

TCLISSP 18:17

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services

1. Tax Credits
   - Donors receive a 75% non-refundable tax credit on contributions up to $500,000 annually.
   - Example: A $100,000 donation yields a $75,000 tax credit.
   - In 2024, $7.8 million in contributions resulted in $5.5 million in tax credits.
2. Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs)
   - SGOs manage donations and distribute scholarships to eligible students.
   - Must allocate 90% of donations within 36 months.
   - Required to submit annual CPA audits and reports.
3. Participating Schools
   - Must be "Qualified Schools", either:
     - Accredited by the Kansas State Board of Education, or
     - Accredited by a recognized national/regional agency.
4. Student Eligibility

To receive up to $8,000, a student must:

- Live in Kansas.
- Have a household income below 250% of the federal poverty level.

- And meet one of the following:
    - Attended a public K–8 school the previous year,
    - Be 7 years old or younger, or
    - Be a continuing TCLISSP recipient under age 21 and not graduated.

5. KSDE & SBOE Responsibilities
    - Verify student eligibility.
    - Coordinate between SGOs to avoid duplicate scholarships.
    - Issue compliance certificates to the Department of Revenue.
    - Provide annual reports to the Legislature.

*Dr. New had to leave for a funeral. She returned after the lunch break.

Commissioner's Annual Report

Dr. Watson 54:20

Dr. Watson

The Kansas State Board of Education Annual Report – October 2025, presented by Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson, outlines the strategic goals, progress indicators, and recognitions across Kansas schools.

<u>Vision and Strategic Goals</u>

The Kansas State Board of Education continues to pursue its vision: "*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student*." The Board's goals for August 2025 through December 2026 focus on:

- Quality School Improvement through the KESA process.
- Leadership Development to foster high expectations and instructional quality.
- Policy Alignment to streamline regulations and support student success.

Implementation is tracked via lead indicators, progress measures, and consistent reporting from KSDE staff and educators.

<u>Instructional Focus Areas</u>

The report emphasizes:

- Structured Literacy aligned with the science of reading.
- Standards Alignment across cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal domains.
- Balanced Assessment to inform instruction and raise achievement.
- Quality Instruction with access to grade-level content and materials.

LETRS training is offered to a wide range of educators to support literacy development.

<u>Leadership Development</u>

Kansas Education Leadership Development System (KEDS) aligns content with professional growth stages from aspiring to executive-level superintendents. Leadership domains include visionary, change, inclusive, instructional, managerial, and interpersonal

leadership.

Student Demographics and Outcomes
The report tracks demographic shifts from 2012 to 2025, showing increasing diversity. It also highlights:

- Graduation Rates trending upward toward the 95% goal.
- Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion improving alongside graduation rates.
- Chronic Absenteeism peaking in 2022 but declining in 2024–2025.

Postsecondary Readiness
Admission requirements vary across Kansas institutions, with most universities requiring a GPA of 2.25–3.25 or ACT scores of 21+. Community colleges and private institutions offer more flexible admissions.

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit
There is a steady increase in AP exam participation and high school students earning postsecondary credits, reflecting expanded academic opportunities.

Kansans Can Star Recognition
Districts are recognized across multiple categories:

1. Graduation: Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper levels awarded to districts based on performance.
2. Academic Preparation: Recognitions from Copper to Gold.
3. Postsecondary Effectiveness: Based on student outcomes two years after graduation.
4. Commissioner's Award: Based on standard deviation performance metrics.
5. Individual Plans of Study, Social-Emotional Growth, Kindergarten Readiness, and Civic Engagement: Recognized at multiple levels.

Some districts earned recognition in up to seven areas, showcasing comprehensive excellence.

Student Highlight: Student Photography of Kansas Agriculture and State FFA Officers share their impact stories from agriculture education and Kansas FFA experiences — FFA 3:03:15
Natalie Clark, Asst. Director, Career and Technical Education
Anthony Meals, FFA, State Advisor

Mrs. Clark and Mr. Meals introduced a beautiful slide show created from some of the exhibits at the recent State FFA (Future Farmers of America) presentation at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

State FFA Officers presented an overview of School-based Agricultural Education and

Kansas FFA; throughout the presentation the State Officers shared personal impact stories from their time in Agricultural Education and how it has influenced them today. Below are the names of the six State FFA Officers and where they are from:

- Lillian Hulse - President (Minneapolis)
- Dustin Denton - Vice President (Valley Heights)
- Marisa Wasinger - Secretary (Hays)
- Maggie Chandler - Treasurer (Neodesha)
- Bricen Benyshek - Reporter (Concordia)
- Allyson Rietcheck - Sentinel (Eudora)

The students shared an overview of the FFA. Teachers are the heart of agriculture education in schools. There are 308 agriculture educators in Kansas. FFA was established in 1928. There are over a million members nationwide and 14,000 Kansas members. FFA is growing in Kansas. There have been 46 new chapters since 2020.

- More than 140 award areas and competitions for students at the state level
- Each competitive area is reviewed by National FFA every three years with industry experts
- Students invest nearly 270,000 hours in 6,952 projects annually
- Members generate an economic impact of more than $11.4 million and directly spend more than $13 million annually
- Students report nearly 2,000 job placements annually with $1.8 million paid income
- Students complete nearly 14,000 hours of community service, investing $5.6 million in those efforts

Each of the officers shared their personal story. Many have grown up on family farms and plan to continue their work into adulthood.

Reading Corner: Matthes Early Learning Center, Harvest of the Month curriculum — Reading Corner 3:38:15

Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Childhood Reading and Dyslexia Specialist
Eryn Davis, Child Nutrition and Wellness

Mrs. Davis shared the Harvest of the Month curriculum which celebrates and encourages the use of Kansas grown food. For instance, October is Apple month. This curriculum for Pre-K addresses three and four year old standards in all eight of the Kansas Early Learning Standards Content Areas.

Much to the delight of the Board members and all the adults in the Boardroom, a wonderful group of children from the Matthes Early Learning Center in Topeka, entered with parents, principal Sarah Kruse, and several proud parents in tow. The children sat

on the floor in front of the Board table where their teacher read them a book about apples (from the curriculum). They were amazing learners, attentive, creative and full of curiosity. We all learned that apples have 10 seeds.

Presentation: Kansans CAN 2024-2025 Best Practice Awards to Child Nutrition Program Recipients — CNW awards 4:02:40

Kelly Chanay, Director, Child Nutrition and Wellness

The KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness Kansans CAN 2024-2025 Best Practice Awards reward
outstanding practices in Child Nutrition & Wellness Programs that support the Kansans CAN vision.
The following Child Nutrition & Wellness Program Sponsors were honored for outstanding and/or innovative practices:

- USD 258 Humboldt- Kansans Can *Provide Outstanding Customer Service*
- USD 386 Madison-Virgil- Kansans Can *Impact Wellness*
- USD 445 Coffeyville- Kansans Can *Serve Local Foods*
- JC Family Home Association-- Kansans Can *Serve Local Foods*
- Lakemary Center- Kansans Can *Serve Local Foods*

Each school staff was honored and given a plaque, pictures were taken, and the Board greeted the winners warmly.

Farm to School Report with "Crunch Off" — Farm to School 4:15:54

Eryn Davis, Child Nutrition and Wellness with school staff

October is National Farm to School Month. This presentation focused on school nutrition programs that are working towards incorporating local foods into their menus. There are nutritional benefits, educational opportunities, community connection, economic impact and environmental benefits to using local foods. Mrs. Davis reported growth in schools participating in Farm to School over the past 10 years. In 2023 the number was 71.5% participation.

Using federal grants, over $1.7 million was spent on locally raised meet.

Several programs were highlighted:
Lawrence Public Schools Community Connection Bakery
JC Family Home Association in Junction City
Lakemary Center in Paola
Coffeyville schools

The presenters shared both the challenges and advantages of these innovative programs.

Presentation: Innovation in Washington County Local School Lunch Program — Denise O'Dea — 5:09:26

Denise O'Dea, Superintendent, USD 108, Washington County

Superintendent O'Dea described her district, pointing out that it covers 398 square miles, with 370 students and 86 staff. They are proud of being small, rural and farm oriented. She stated the best use of funds are always people. The nutrition program was over budget a decade ago, and gradually, with the help of the community, it is now self-sustaining. This has been accomplished by generous donations of meat from the local farm families to the school. In addition, the science and FACS classes hydroponically grow lettuce and tomatoes which are used in the salad bars. The superintendent shared Fastbridge test scores from the past 5 years which show an increase in testing scores that she attributes in part to better nutrition for the students. Also there has been an increase in positive behavior.

Act on Request For Proposal for Reading/Math — Action Reading Math — 5:37:00

Julie Ewing & Beth Fultz, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is issuing this Request for Proposal to obtain competitive responses from vendors. The contract will be issued for a licensing agreement from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

The vendor will provide a scientific approach to measuring reading ability and reading materials and mathematical achievement and concept/application solvability. The measure should be linked to English Language Arts and mathematics scale score on the Kansas state summative assessments.

For instructional purposes, measures should be reported at the student and classroom levels. The measures should appear on reports that are sent home to parents and reports that are provided to the current grade-level teacher and/or the next grade-level teacher. The measure will be added to individual student score reports and used in peer review for summative assessment approval.

During the term of this agreement the vendor will provide access to online resources for students, parents, and teachers that are aligned to the scientific measure of a student's reading or mathematics ability.

Background/History: Previously the Kansas State Department of Education has had

multi-year contracts with MetaMetrics for these products, services, and resources. The Department of Administration requires a bid for these services seeking the provider to provide approval for bid.

Mrs. Haas moved the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to enter into a contract with the recommended vendor resulting from the bidding process required by the Department of Administration and Division of Purchasing for the purpose of providing a product linked to English Language Arts and Mathematics scale score on the Kansas state summative assessments and resources for students, parents, and teacher aligned to the scientific measure of a student's reading or mathematics ability with a contract amount not to exceed $1.5 million through June 30, 2031. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting. Motion 5:51:00

Act on Continuation of Work on Kansas Assessment Project

Julie Ewing & Beth Fultz, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is committed to maintaining a balanced assessment system, emphasizing the provision of equitable resources to support diverse assessment opportunities. We believe that such a system offers a thorough and effective framework for evaluating student learning.

Currently, Assessment and Technology Solutions (ATS) at the University of Kansas contracts for all state assessment products and services. Both Kansas state statute and federal regulations require students attending public schools to be assessed annually on content knowledge and skills.

The Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education believe the balanced assessment systems approach to testing provides the best evaluation of student performance. The balanced assessment system approach includes mini-tests, interims, and summative assessments aligned to Kansas content standards. All Kansas assessments are delivered to students on a single platform (Kite) and all reports related to the assessments are also available for parents, teachers and administrators on the Kite platform. It is a one-stop shop for all testing and reporting for Kansas schools.

Work would include development of test items, test administration, scoring, psychometrics, and score reporting. By continuing to use the same testing platform and vendor to develop additional test items, some items could be released annually.

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner Motion

of Education to contract with the University of Kansas for the purpose of providing state assessments to students in accredited schools. The contract will provide development of new items, test administration, score reporting, psychometrics, and some released items annually. This contract is for two years and 15 months, from July 1, 2026, to September 30, 2029, and would not exceed $6,000,000 annually. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. 6:05:00

Mrs. Potter made a motion to amend the original dates to 15 months, from July 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. Motion failed 4-6 with Mrs. Haas, Dr. New, Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. Zeck, Mr. Porter and Mrs. Arnold voting no. Amend 6:14:40

(back on the original motion) Motion carried 6-4 with Mr. Zeck, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Dombrosky voting no. Final 6:15:30

(Mr. Zeck had to leave)

Presentation: Annual Report from the Kansas State High School Athletic Association (KSHSAA) KSHSAA 6:16:00
Bill Faflick, Executive Director

Mr. Faflick presented a comprehensive update to the Kansas State Board of Education, expressing gratitude for their leadership and support of student activities across the state. He emphasized the importance of school activities in fostering student growth, highlighting their educational, inclusive, and transformational nature.

The report detailed the composition of the 2025–26 KSHSAA Board of Directors, noting a significant number of new members and broad representation from leagues, local boards, and advisory groups. Faflick introduced key staff members and their responsibilities, ranging from sport-specific oversight to communications, operations, and student engagement.

A major focus was on risk mitigation and safety protocols, including emergency action plans, heat acclimatization policies, and the use of Wet Bulb Globe Thermometers to monitor environmental conditions. The presentation stressed the need for proper equipment and training to prevent exertional heat stroke, especially in football, and outlined scheduled rehearsals for emergency procedures across various sports.

Faflick celebrated student achievements, including national and state-level awards in performing arts and sportsmanship. He recognized the winners of the *True Blue Scholarships*, honoring students across 36 activities for excellence in academics, athletics, and leadership. The report also addressed eligibility rules and transfer policies, including recent amendments to Rule 18 that provide exemptions for students transferring from

non-member schools. Data on approvals and denials for non-public and virtual school students was shared, along with insights into open enrollment and its impact on eligibility.

Sportsmanship remained a key theme, with statistics on ejections and disciplinary actions across sports. Faflick highlighted resources and initiatives aimed at promoting positive behavior, including summits and educational materials. Updates on new policies, such as drone usage and ejection appeals, were provided, along with legislative developments affecting KSHSAA operations. The presentation concluded with a preview of the 2025 fall championship schedule and a reaffirmation of KSHSAA's mission to build champions for life through interscholastic activities.

Presentation: Survey on School Issued Device Use — Survey
Dr. Jake Steel and Payton Lynn, KSDE — 7:06:13

The Kansas State Board of Education is pursuing a three-part approach to better understand the relationship between technology and education: student screen time, artificial intelligence (AI), and school-issued devices.

Student Screen Time: In July 2024, the Board established the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time. The Task Force's research and recommendations were presented to the Board in November 2024 and formally accepted by a 10–0 vote in December 2024. In June 2025, a statewide survey was distributed to superintendents to gather information on district policies regarding personal electronic devices. The results, presented in July 2025, provided a clearer picture of how districts are approaching device use.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): To stay informed about emerging tools and their impact on schools, the Board receives monthly presentations on AI. This ongoing learning series ensures members have up-to-date knowledge as the technology continues to evolve.

School-Issued Devices: The third focus area examines how district-owned devices are being used in Kansas schools. On September 25, 2025, a survey was distributed to all superintendents to collect information on school-issued device use inside and outside classrooms. The data will show how devices are used across grade levels, subject areas, and districts. The attached PDF outlines the survey's purpose, key terms, and questions. Aggregate results and next steps will be presented to the Board at the October 2025 meeting.

Survey on School-Issued Devices – Summary of Findings

Dr. Steel and Miss Lynn presented results from a statewide survey of districts, from school superintendents. The survey received 274 responses, representing approximately 95% of districts.

Device Distribution:
Nearly all students in grades 3–12 are issued devices.
Take-home privileges increase with grade level, reaching 95% for high school students.

Instructional Use:
PreK–5 students typically use devices for 30–120 minutes daily.
Students in grades 6–12 use devices in 4–6 class periods per day.

Common Instructional Applications:
Devices are used for personalized learning, assessments, productivity tasks, collaboration, and creativity.
Usage is highest in core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Non-Instructional Use:
Devices are frequently used during independent work and study hall/advisory periods.

Impact Perceptions:
Majority of districts report positive impacts on student engagement and learning.
Mixed feedback was noted regarding attention span and classroom behavior, with some concerns in middle and high school grades.
School climate impact was generally viewed as neutral to positive.

Further analysis and follow-up discussions are anticipated to guide future policy and support decisions.

AI in Education – Presentation Summary

AI
7:26:40

Jake Steel, Director of Strategy and Operational Alignment at KSDE, presented an overview of artificial intelligence (AI) in education as part of the State Board's learning series. He focused on Gen Z, the generation born roughly between 1997 and 2012. They have spent all their lives in a world dominated by technology.

Dr. Steel shared findings from the Gallup & Walton Family Foundation (2025) *Voices of Gen Z: How American Youth View and Use Artificial Intelligence.* The survey found:
79% of Gen Z students use AI; 47% use it weekly.
Students report benefits such as easier access to information (71%), faster task completion (66%), and improved learning speed (53%).

Students are divided on AI's effect on cognitive skills:
43% say it helps find accurate information; 38% say it hurts.
42% say it helps generate ideas; 36% say it hinders.
48% believe it negatively affects critical thinking.
52% of students believe schools should teach AI use.
48% support using AI tools for classwork and homework.
50% of schools have clear AI policies; 49% do not or are unsure.
51% of students support teachers using AI for lesson planning.
Opinions are split on AI use for grading.
Students in schools that allow AI use feel more prepared for future academic and workforce demands.
47% believe AI skills will be needed in college; 45% in the workforce.

The November session will focus on AI Literacy, including definitions, frameworks, and strategies to equip students and educators with the skills to use AI responsibly and critically.

Chair Hopkins recessed the Board until the following morning at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00. Mr. Zeck was not able to attend due to a medical procedure, Mrs. Arnold was on Zoom, the other members of the Board were present. Dr. Watson and Mr. Ferguson were at the Board table.

Recording started late

Presentation: Joint Literacy Work with Higher Education and the Kansas State Board of Education

Commissioner Watson, KSDE
Dr. Cindy Lane, Blueprint for Literacy, KBOR

Purpose
To outline a collaborative literacy initiative between the Kansas State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), aimed at improving literacy outcomes across Kansas from early childhood through higher education. A three year pilot summer reading program for children in early grades.

Key Themes & Components
1. Current Literacy Landscape
Student Literacy Data: High percentages of students in grades PreK–2 are at "High Risk" or "Some Risk" for literacy challenges. Adult Literacy: 17% of Kansas adults are functionally illiterate; 352,614 adults affected. Economic Impact: Literacy challenges cost Kansas $19.3 million and the U.S. $2.2 billion annually.

2. Kansas School Improvement Model
Emphasizes Structured Literacy, Standards Alignment, Balanced Assessment, and Quality Instruction. Supported by systems like MTSS, Professional Learning, Resource Allocation, and Family/Community Partnerships.

3. State Board Goals (2025–2026)
Focus on Quality School Improvement, Leadership Development, and Policy Alignment. Implementation tracked through Board meetings, commissioner reports, and educator/community engagement.

4. Shared Literacy Initiative
A three-year pilot for targeted summer literacy programs in early grades.
Voluntary participation from districts, students, and families.

Collaboration with school districts, higher education, and the Kansas Legislature.

5. Higher Education Actions
Strengthen educator preparation through Structured Literacy (SL) training.
Provide stackable credentials, literacy practicums, and professional learning for administrators.

A unified vision to teach every child to read. Includes field experiences, student teaching, ongoing coaching, and evidence-based resources. Aims for 100% of elementary educators trained by 2030.

6. Research & Evaluation
Focused on understanding the impact of intensive interventions on:

- Pre-service teacher (PST) skill development.
- Student literacy achievement.
- Classroom conditions and instructional practices.

There was discussion with the Board and a general consensus that the planning for a pilot program as described should go forward. Dr. Watson and Dr. Lane plan to come back to the Board in December to share details.

Review Evaluation Review Committee Recommendations

ERC
1:05:21

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure

Dr. Chmidling presented the Evaluation Review Committee (ERC) recommendations regarding educator preparation provider accreditation and program approvals.

<u>Higher Education Accreditation Process</u>

1. Educator Preparation Providers submit self-study reports and evidence.
2. A visit team reviews, provides feedback, and conducts interviews.
3. ERC reviews all materials and makes recommendations to KSBE.

The State Board decides on accreditation status:
Full Accreditation (7 years)
Accreditation with Stipulation (2 years)
Probationary Accreditation (2 years)
Not Accredited

<u>Accreditation Standards</u>
Five key standards are evaluated:

1. Content & Pedagogical Knowledge

2. Clinical Partnerships & Practice
3. Candidate Quality, Recruitment, Selectivity
4. Program Impact
5. Provider Quality, Continuous Improvement, and Capacity

Pittsburg State University (PSU)
Recommendation: Full Accreditation through Dec 31, 2032
All standards met for both Initial and Advanced levels.
No stipulations
Three Areas for Improvement (AFIs):

R2.2: Limited evidence on evaluating clinical educators' impact.
R4.1: Insufficient data on completers' impact on P-12 learning.
AR5.2: Lack of reliability data for advanced program assessments.

Program Approvals:

Emporia State University
Programs (e.g., Art, Elementary, Library Media) recommended for Approved status through Dec 31, 2032
No AFIs

Fort Hays State University
New Program: Innovative Elementary PreK–6
Status: Approved with Stipulation through Dec 31, 2027

University of Kansas
Program: Innovative Low Incidence LRL PreK–12
Status: Approved through Dec 31, 2026
Stipulation removed

Washburn University
Program: Early Childhood Unified B–3
Status: Approved through Dec 31, 2030

Wichita State University
Program: Elementary Education Unified K–6
Status: Approved through Dec 31, 2029
Stipulation removed

Review Process Overview:
Program and accreditation reviews occur on a 7-year cycle.
Reviews are guided by KSDE regulations and the Kansas Constitution.
24 EPPs + 1 consortium currently operate in Kansas with 425 approved programs.

These recommendations will be presented as an action item in December.

Presentation: Kansas School for the Deaf Report

KSD Report 1:33:19

Superintendent Luann Barron

The Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD), a state-operated special school, presented its budget overview and strategic priorities. Unlike local school districts, KSD receives funding through a direct line-item appropriation in the State General Fund (SGF), ensuring consistent support for its specialized mission. For FY 2026, the SGF allocation is approximately $12.58 million, with over 83% dedicated to instruction. Additional funding comes from grants and fee funds totaling $1.39 million.

The budget process has evolved, now involving separate reviews by the Governor's Office and the Legislative Budget Committee, allowing the Legislature to independently develop its budget. KSD's facilities, some dating back to the early 20th century, are supported through the State Institutional Building Fund (SIBF), which recently shifted its funding source from property tax to SGF transfers. For FY 2026, $3.99 million is allocated for safety upgrades, HVAC maintenance, and general repairs.

KSD serves a diverse student population, including 174 infants and toddlers through its SoundSTART early intervention program. The school employs 123.65 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff across instruction, outreach, support services, and student life, though 12 positions remain vacant. Student Enrollment has grown. In 2021 it was 150, 2022 down to 148, 2023 back to 150, then in 2024 up to 157 and this coming year there are 162 students projected to attend.

Key budget requests for FY 2027 include aligning teacher pay with Olathe Public Schools, restoring a 1.5% cut to the Language Assessment Program, adding three classroom resource teachers, and funding ASL proficiency incentives. Capital improvement requests include a new roof for Emery, demolition of the Powerhouse, and inflation-adjusted rehabilitation funds, totaling $5.66 million.

Strategic initiatives for 2025–2028 focus on implementing a comprehensive strategic plan, enhancing communication, negotiating professional contracts, and addressing staffing shortages through emergency substitute licenses. KSD is also preparing for a CEASD accreditation visit in November, which will assess alignment with standards and

strategic goals.
The presentation concluded with highlights of recent community engagement, including recognition of Paul Hubbard, the inventor of the football huddle, and events like the Deaf Cultural Festival and ASL for All 5K.

Act on the Kansas Schools for the Blind and Deaf Out-of-State Tuition Requests — Motion 2:32:10

Mrs. Potter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the proposed tuition rate increases for out-of-state students at the Kansas School for the Deaf and the Kansas State School for the Blind. The proposed new rates for the 2026-2027 school year would be as follows:
Day Services: An increase from $40,000.00 to $50,000.00 per student.
Dormitory Services: An increase from $20,000.00 to $25,000.00 per student.
Mr. Porter seconded the motion. **Motion carried 8-0. Mrs. Arnold and Mr. Zeck were not present.**

KSD/KNEA Negotiation Report — KSD KNEA 2:34:37

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson, Board Member and Liaison to KSD Michelle Dombrosky

Mr. Ferguson noted that although they were hoping the Board could ratify the negotiations between Kansas School for the Deaf and Kansas National Education Association, the final contract is not agreed upon. The vote will likely occur in December. Johnathan Wright, from the negotiation team from KNEA was present in the Boardroom. Mr. Ferguson gave an overview of the staff/teacher payment increases. KSD will now follow the Olathe School District staff/teacher schedule of payment/benefits.

This is a summary of the tentative agreement between KSD and KNEA as of September 3, 2025. Mr. Ferguson provided this document to the Board.

1. Compensation & Salary Schedule

- FY 2026 (School Year 2025–26):
  - $6,000 increase per cell in the salary schedule.
  - Minimum starting salary raised to $50,000.
  - KSD will submit a Supplemental Budget Request of $170,598.32 to cover the increase.
  - If approved, the agreement becomes a 2-year contract.
- FY 2027 (School Year 2026–27):
  - Proposed 2.5% salary schedule increase.
  - This exceeds the percentage increase agreed to by Olathe KNEA.

2. Contract Days

- Increase from 181 to 187 days.
    - 3 additional instructional/student contact days.
    - 3 additional professional development days (PDD).
    - For 2025–26, these days will be added to the end of the calendar.
    - For 2026–27, they will be built into the calendar.

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3. Professional Development

- One of the new PDDs will be a flex day (pilot program).
    - Guidelines to be set by the Professional Development Council (PDC).

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4. Supplemental Salary Schedule

- No changes for FY 2026.
- FY 2027: KSD will request $45,000 for increases in supplemental pay.

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5. ASL Stipends & Development Program

- FY 2027: Request for $40,000 to fund ASL proficiency stipends.
    - Intended for new hires and existing staff not yet proficient.
    - Stipend amount proposed: $2,500 per qualifying employee.
- A comprehensive ASL Development Program outlines:
    - Expected proficiency levels by role.
    - Assessment protocols and training.
    - Grievance procedures and support structures.

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6. Inclement Weather Policy

- KSD will align closures with Olathe Public Schools.
- No instructional time during closures.
- Dorm staff working during closures will receive $150 per shift.
- Certified staff no longer need to use PTO for weather-related closures.

7. Supplemental Contracts

- FY 2026: No increases due to budget limits.
- FY 2027: Request for $300,000 to fund:
    - ASL stipends.
    - Longevity pay.
    - Increased rates for summer curricular work and ESY (from $150 to $250/day).
    - Updates to coaching and sponsor positions.

Regulation 2:46:04

Presentation: Recommendations on Regulation Review

Dr. Renee Nugent, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services

The Kansas State Board of Education is initiating a comprehensive review of its regulations, guided by its constitutional and statutory authority. Under K.S.A. 72-256, the Board is empowered to adopt rules and regulations concerning areas such as courses of study, school accreditation, and educator certification, provided these do not conflict with existing laws. The Kansas Constitution (Article 6, Section 2) further grants the Board general supervision over public schools and educational interests, excluding those under the Board of Regents.

A key legal precedent—the 1973 Peabody Case—reinforces the Board's self-executing authority, meaning it can act independently of legislative approval as long as its actions remain lawful. This authority ensures that the Board's regulatory decisions are not subject to legislative review or restriction.

The regulatory framework is organized into 16 active articles, each containing between 1 and 53 regulations. The review process will begin with a proposal presented to the Board in October, followed by a vote in November.

The Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services will lead the identification of regulations for review, focusing on those that:

- Impose significant administrative burdens,
- Lack connection to student learning, or
- Strain district resources.

Regulation changes will be presented article by article. The Board will first vote on the general direction of proposed changes, after which program staff will refine the specific language. The Board will then review and vote on the final edits.

Once approved, the changes will proceed to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General's Office for review. The final step includes public comment and a formal hearing before adoption.

Quarterly Report: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

SEAC
3:09:36

Dr. Lena Kisner, Chair, SEAC

Dr. Kisner presented SEAC's latest updates to the Kansas State Board of Education, highlighting several key areas of focus. The council reviewed developments in special education funding models through the Education Funding Task Force and examined updated state assessment cut scores, particularly in relation to student performance among those with disabilities.

SEAC also explored resources and challenges within Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that affect students with disabilities. There were updates on Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) funded projects and the Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS). The latter involved a review by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in September 2024, with KSDE now working to meet the requirements outlined in the DMS report.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, SEAC is actively recruiting for four open positions: a general education teacher, representatives from a virtual school and a charter school, and a district representative for the McKinney-Vento program. The council plans to address the transition from Part C to Part B services and will continue focusing on special education in virtual school settings. SEAC also invited the Kansas State Board to suggest additional areas of concern or interest.

Committee Reports

Reports
3:33:50

Mr. Porter was traveling all month and did not attend any meetings, but he shared that there was potentially another meeting of the Kansas State Legislative Task Force on School Funding that would be held prior to the start of the Legislature in January 2026. Also, next month there will be an Executive Board for the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Mrs. Potter attended a presentation by the Kansas Council of Economic Education at the Marcus Welcome Center at Wichita University.

Mrs. Dombrosky was very active in the KNEA/KSD negotiations, and the KSD Task Force. She will attend the KSHSAA Regional Board of Directors later in October.

Mrs. Haas participated in several KSD Task Force meetings. Board Policy will meet in

November. She attended the SEAC day-long meeting in person, and the KS Volunteer Commission. Also a number of NASBE online meetings.

Mrs. Arnold will be attending the Mental Health Advisory Committee at the end of the week.

Dr. New was active in attending the KSD Task Force in Olathe and also participated in the online NASBE meeting.

Mr. Zeck was not present but left meeting minutes from the Kansas Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education (KACCTE).

Mrs. Hopkins attended the Professional Standards Board and the Accreditation Advisory Council.

Mr. Hershberger shared a video of the Kansas Ag Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Sproul from Chataqua County District.

Several Board members attended lunch at schools in their district that were recommended for innovative lunch programs. Mr. Hershberger went to Maize and witnessed an amazing presentation on the initiatives at that school district. Mrs. Hopkins went to Palco, Mrs. Haas went to Trailridge Middle School, Dr. New went to Washburn-Rural, and Mrs. O'Brien visited the amazing bakery program in Lawrence.

Chair Report

Mrs. Hopkins reported on the amazing participation of Kansas students in the Constitution Day event. She reminded the Board that evaluations of the Commissioner, Board Attorney and Board Secretary would be sent out this month. They are online surveys which need to be filled out and returned to the KSDE HR department. She clarified that there was no law broken, as has been spread on social media, with the Children Can Read program. Schools submit statistics on June 30 and that will be gathered into a report and given, as laid out in statute, to the Legislature in January 2026.

The Chair spoke about the task that is before the Board to hire a new Commissioner of Education. At the Special September meeting the Request for Proposal was approved and it was posted by the Department of Administration on October 6th. The Board was able to request vendors to add onto the invited list, but any vendor can access the process until it closes on November 11th. The Board members all signed non-disclosure forms, so that they can be part of the process of looking at the information that is not public during the process of RFP.

Board Travel

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests as presented. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0. Mr. Zeck and Mr. Porter were not present.

Board Future Requests

Due to the focus on hiring a Commissioner, the Chair asked that no future requests be made.

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting.

Notes on Thursday's attendance: Mr. Zeck was undergoing a medical procedure and could not attend. Mrs. Arnold was on Zoom but had to leave during the meeting for an appointment. She left prior to voting on item 4. *Act on Out of State Tuition*. Mr. Porter left slightly early, due to an appointment.

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Chair Cathy Hopkins Board Secretary Deborah Bremer