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Michelle Dombrosky District 3
Connie O'Brien District 4
Cathy Hopkins District 5
Dr. Beryl A New District 6
Dennis Hershberger District 7
Betty J. Arnold District 8
Jim Porter District 9
Debby Potter District 10

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 11, 2026

BOARD MEETING MATERIALS PACKET

In this packet please find the following:

- Minutes for July 14th and 15th, 2026 meeting
- Agenda for August 2026 meeting
- Consent Agenda Items (13 items)

ITEMS (This month's meeting is Tuesday only, with a work session on Wednesday)

- Commissioner's Report
- Citizen's Open Forum
- Student Presentation: Tanya Ramesh, winner of 2025 Civics Bee
- Presentation: Through-Year Innovative Assessment process (Dr. Conrad)
- Quality Instruction: Reading Corner
- Presentation on Federal Funds (Dr. Harwood)
- Receive Evaluation Review Committee Higher Ed (Dr. Chmidling)
- Presentation: Student Safe at School (Dr. Harwood)
- Act on Student Walkout Complaint Adjudication (Gabrielle Hull)
- Act on Life and Employability Skills Assessment (Dr. Scott)
- Act on Science cut scores (Dr. Conrad)
- Act on Accreditation Review Council Recommendations (Dr. Scott)

Please use the bookmarks. Many of them drop down into attachments that are relevant to the agenda item.

TUESDAY MINUTES

To be Approved in August 2026

The time stamps are coordinated with the KSDE Livemedia YouTube channel

Kansas State Board of Education
July 14, 2026

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. Chair Hopkins recited the Board mission statement and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Emree Gabriel, a junior at Eudora High School, Eudora USD 491, sang the National Anthem. Her music teacher, Damien Johnson, Kansas Music Educators Association president, attended with her, as well as her father.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:
Mrs. Betty Arnold
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 Steel were seated at the Board table.

Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky was not able to attend the meeting as she was travelling.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR June 8, 9 and 10, 2026

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the minutes for the June 8 working session and the June 9 and 10 Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the July agenda as presented. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

These items were on the consent agenda:

a.	Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions
b.	**Act** on Licensure Review Committee Recommendations
c.	**Act** on request from USD 259 Wichita, Sedgwick County for a Bond
d.	**Act** on request from USD 259 Wichita, Sedgwick County for Capital Improvement
e.	**Act** on request from USD 266 Maize for a Bond
f.	**Act** on request from USD 266 Maize for Capital Improvement
g.	**Act** to approve the yearly fee to participate in the National Association of State Boards of Education $20,080
h.	**Act** to approve contracts for Central Regional Executive duties for the 2026-2027 school year.
i.	**Act** to approve the Safe and Secure Schools grants

Mrs. O'Brien asked to remove items c, d, e, and f (school district requests) for a separate vote. Mrs. Potter asked to remove g (NASBE dues) for a separate vote.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda without c, d, e, f, and g. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA FOR A VOTE

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve items c, d, e, and f (requests from districts for bond vote and capital improvement). Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-3 with Vice Chair Zeck, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Potter voting no.

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve item g, the 2027 dues for the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-2 with Vice Chair Zeck and Mrs. Potter voting no.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Report
00:08:00

The Commissioner highlighted the Kansas Civics Bee as an example of public education's role in preparing students for active and informed citizenship. The event showcased students' abilities to identify community challenges, evaluate solutions, and engage in constructive dialogue about public issues.

Notable Recognition

- State Champion: Colin Burke a student of Salina USD 305 Student Outcome

Highlights Kansas Assessments (KAP)

- ELA proficiency has increased since 2022.
- Math proficiency has also improved since 2022.
- Despite an assessment transition between 2024 and 2025, overall achievement trends remain positive.

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

- The report reviewed Kansas' performance on NAEP, often called the Nation's Report Card, as a nationally representative measure of student achievement in reading and mathematics.

2025 Graduation Rate: 90.5%

- Graduation rates have increased since 2023.
- The Commissioner emphasized that graduation data reflects student persistence and continued engagement in school.

Chronic Absenteeism 2025 Rate: 19.56%

- Chronic absenteeism has improved since 2022 when the rate was 25.41%.
- While trending positively, absenteeism remains above pre-pandemic levels.

ACT Performance 2025 Kansas Average Composite: 19.0

- Slightly below the national average of 19.4.
- Statewide ACT performance has generally declined over the past decade.

Postsecondary Success Rate (Class of 2023): 54.9%
Effectiveness Rate: 48.3%

- Postsecondary success has declined over the past several years.
- Success is measured through certification attainment, postsecondary credentials, degree completion, sustained postsecondary enrollment, or approved transition services for qualifying students.

The Commissioner's central message was that the best way to improve student outcomes is to improve students' daily educational experiences.

Three key themes emerged:

1. Every student should receive high-quality instruction every day.
2. High-quality instructional materials are a critical foundation for success.
3. Teachers need ongoing professional support to implement those materials effectively.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

00:34:55

Nancy Bolz, Cognia (a non-profit school improvement company), spoke about the work her organization does with schools and requested time on a future agenda to present more about her work in the Midwest region with Cognia.

PRESENTATION ON AMERICA'S ORIGIN: FROM COLONIES TO A COUNTRY

History
00:52:00

History, Government and Social Studies Spotlight

Adam Topliff, recently hired as KSDE Humanities Program Manager for History, Government and Social Studies

Mr. Topliff provided a presentation in recognition of the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary. He presented the topic as if he were teaching a high school class and was very interactive with the Board members.

He drew connections between the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution, emphasizing that the two documents should be viewed as parts of a single story rather than separate moments in history.

The presentation explored how the Declaration of Independence articulates the nation's founding ideals, including equality, unalienable rights, liberty, and government by the consent of the governed, while the Constitution establishes the framework through which those ideals can be pursued. Mr. Topliff described the Declaration as identifying the nation's aspirations and the Constitution as creating the structure necessary to work toward those aspirations.

Using primary source analysis, Mr. Topliff demonstrated the importance of helping students read, interpret, and evaluate historical documents. He highlighted the Constitution's call to form "a more perfect Union" as evidence that the nation's founding documents recognize civic responsibility as ongoing work that requires continuous learning and engagement by each generation.

The presentation also emphasized the important role of civic education in preparing students to be informed and active citizens. Students who engage with foundational documents are not simply learning history; they are developing critical thinking skills, evaluating evidence, considering multiple perspectives, and understanding their role in improving their communities.

Mr. Topliff concluded by noting that public education plays a vital role in sustaining democratic institutions by promoting civic knowledge and informed participation. He encouraged continued focus on helping students connect historical understanding with the responsibilities of citizenship.

PRESENTATION ON LICENSED PERSONNEL REPORT, AN UPDATE OF EDUCATOR DEMOGRAPHICS ACROSS KANSAS

Director Shane Carter, Teacher Licensure

Mr. Carter presented the annual Licensed Personnel Report and vacancy data for the 2025-2026 school year. The report reviewed educator workforce trends, including entrance and exit data, demographics, retention rates, nontraditional licensure pathways, licensure activity, vacancy trends, and Seal of Literacy implementation.

The data showed that educator stability remains strong, with nearly 88 percent of educators remaining in the same district. Movement between Kansas districts, entry of new graduates, and educators entering from other professions continued to contribute to the workforce, while retirements and departures from the profession remained relatively stable. The largest group of educators had one to four years of experience, the average educator had 14 years of experience, and average salaries increased from the previous year for both first-year educators and teachers.

Teacher retention rates for educators entering their third year of teaching improved to just over 90 percent, reflecting continued progress since the implementation of two-year mentoring requirements. The report also highlighted growth and continued participation in nontraditional licensure pathways designed to expand the educator workforce.

A total of 24,319 licenses were issued during the 2025-2026 school year. The number of teaching licenses issued to Kansas graduates remained strong, while the number of licenses issued to out-of-state applicants continued a gradual decline. Career and Technical Education specialized licenses also increased from the previous year.

Mr. Carter reported that statewide vacancies decreased from fall 2025 to spring 2026. Special education, elementary education, mathematics, science, and English language arts remained the five highest-need areas. Special education continued to represent the largest area of need, although vacancies declined compared to the fall collection. Most vacancies were attributed either to individuals serving outside their endorsement area or a lack of applicants.

The Board also received an update on the Seal of Literacy initiative. More than 13,700 seals had been added to educator licenses as of July 2026. Implementation rates varied by license type, with approximately half of elementary educators and early childhood educators having completed the requirement. The Elementary Education Teaching Reading Subtest continued to show strong performance, with an overall pass rate of 86 percent.

He concluded with priorities for the 2026-2027 school year, including updates to:

- educator standards,
- leadership development standards,
- structured literacy alignment,
- expansion of apprenticeship programs for teachers, principals, reading specialists, and special education educators,
- updates to the Kansas Code of Ethics for Educators,
- and regulatory revisions.

VISIT TO CONSTITUTION HALL

As part of this year's focus on the 250th Birthday, the Board participated in a field trip. They visited one of the oldest buildings in Topeka (1855), which was involved in the early formation of the State and the decision about whether Kansas would join as a free state or a slave state. Constitution Hall was the free state, Kansas territorial-era capitol.

In 1861, Kansas joined the Union as a free state. For several years, Constitution Hall served as the state capitol, until construction started on the present capitol building.

Thomas Fulbright, history teacher at Hope Street Academy, a charter high school in Topeka USD 501, serves on the Board at Constitution Hall and was part of the recent renovation of the building.

PPC
03:30:20

ACT ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION
R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel KSDE
Dr. Mischel Miller, Executive Director Kansas Educational Leadership Institute

PPC Case 25-PPC-47

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and suspend the Licensee in 25-PPC-47. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-2 with Mrs. Potter and Mrs. O'Brien voting no.

PPC Case 24-PPC-24

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and allow the Licensee 24-PPC-24 to maintain his license subject to public censure. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Professional Practices Commission Case 24-PPC-24

General Counsel Scott Gordon and Kansas Educational Leadership Institute Executive Director Dr. Mischel Miller presented the findings and recommendations of the

Professional Practices Commission regarding Case 24-PPC-24.

Board members were reminded that the Professional Practices Commission conducts evidentiary hearings on behalf of the Kansas State Board of Education and is responsible for issuing initial orders that may include no discipline, dismissal of a complaint, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, or public censure.

The case involved allegations of inappropriate and overly personal conduct directed toward a student. The Commission conducted an evidentiary hearing and heard testimony from multiple individuals, including representatives from teacher licensure, higher education, and the student's family. During the proceedings, evidence was presented that the licensee had completed both the NASDTEC Prevention and Correction Course and an approved self-reflection program designed to address professional boundaries and ethical responsibilities.

Additional information indicated that the licensee had complied with recommended corrective measures and that the individual's current employer had reported no further concerns. Based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission recommended that the Kansas State Board of Education allow the licensee to maintain his teaching license subject to public censure.

The presenters also shared broader lessons from the case, emphasizing the importance of consistent ethics training for educators, the value of early intervention when concerns arise, and the need for continued resources to support professional conduct and ethical decision-making within the education profession.

Reading
4:04:16

QUALITY INSTRUCTION: *Reading Corner*
Dr. Laurie Curtis
Amy Bybee, Curriculum Director, Ottawa USD 290
Board Minutes Summary – Quality Instruction Reading Corner
Ms. Bybee provided an overview of the district's efforts to strengthen literacy instruction and improve student achievement. The work began after accreditation findings identified the need for a documented, guaranteed, and viable English Language Arts curriculum due to inconsistencies in instructional practices and student outcomes.

District leaders and educators focused on developing a comprehensive curriculum, establishing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), clarifying learning targets, and aligning assessments across grade levels. Dedicated collaboration time and professional development helped create greater consistency in instruction throughout the district.

The district also implemented an instructional framework to support reflective teaching

practices and classroom improvement. While student achievement showed progress, leadership determined that stronger literacy knowledge and more research-based instructional practices were needed to accelerate student success.

To address this need, the district invested in extensive Science of Reading and LETRS® professional development. Training was provided to classroom teachers, reading specialists, special education staff, instructional coaches, psychologists, and administrators to build districtwide expertise in evidence-based literacy instruction.

As educators deepened their understanding of structured literacy, the district identified gaps between existing instructional materials and best practices. A comprehensive curriculum review process was conducted, with teachers playing a central role in evaluating and selecting resources. Decisions were guided by research, student achievement data, and evidence-based outcomes.

The district has since implemented new K-12 English Language Arts resources aligned with Science of Reading principles and incorporated literacy priorities into its continuous improvement efforts. Student achievement data shows notable gains in state assessment performance over recent years.

Looking ahead, the Ottawa USD 290, will continue aligning its practices with Kansas literacy initiatives, providing ongoing professional development, and focusing on ensuring all students develop the literacy skills needed for lifelong success.

PRESENTATION ON TRAINING OF ADMINISTRATORS AND INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERS

Training
04:48:00

Director Shane Carter, Teacher Licensure
Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure

Guests:

- Susan C. Bon, J.D., Ph.D., Executive Vice President and Provost and Acting Dean of the College of Education, Pittsburg State University
- Douglas Huffman, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Teacher Education & Undergraduate Programs, The University of Kansas
- Jennifer Bessolo, Ed.D., Professor of Practice, Dept of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, The University of Kansas

Shane Carter provided an overview of the Higher Education Leadership Standards used in building and district-level educational leadership preparation programs. He noted that the standards were last revised in 2020 and highlighted the standards most closely related to information requests, personnel evaluation, and district initiatives.

He reviewed key leadership standards that guide administrator preparation:

- Standard 4 focuses on learning and instruction, emphasizing instructional leadership, curriculum, assessment, technology integration, support systems, and the use of data to improve student outcomes.

- Standard 6 addresses operations and management, including leading organizational change, managing resources, ensuring equitable systems, and applying laws, policies, and regulations.

- Standard 7 focuses on building professional capacity and fostering collaborative professional cultures through staff supervision, evaluation, support, and professional learning. At the district level, Standard 7 also emphasizes policy, governance, advocacy, collaborative decision-making, and representing district needs in broader policy discussions.

The presentation emphasized that while building- and district-level leadership standards are distinct, they largely mirror one another and are designed to promote the success and well-being of students and staff through effective leadership, continuous improvement, and evidence-based decision-making.

Information was also shared regarding higher education partners involved in administrator preparation programs across Kansas. The presenters, from KU and Pittsburg State, explained how they train school leaders in many different areas of responsibility and in encouraging strong, collaborative culture with staff they support.

ACT ON KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET OPTIONS FY2028

Budget Options 05:27:45

Dr. John Hess, Director, Fiscal Services and Operations

Dr. Hess presented budget options for Fiscal Year 2028 and reviewed major state aid categories, special education funding considerations, selected education programs, and agency operating budget needs.

The Board was presented with the options, offered choices of motions, and asked to take action.

Major Categories of State Aid:

Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education recommend the adoption of the consensus estimates for State Foundation Aid, Supplemental State Aid, Capital Improvement State Aid, and Capital Outlay State Aid for FY 2028. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. **Motion carried 6-3 with Mrs. Potter, Vice Chair Zeck and Mrs. O'Brien voting no.**

Special Education State Aid:

Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement for FY 2028 to be phased in over four years, to fund 92% of special education excess costs. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-1-1 with Vice Chair Zeck voting no and Mrs. Potter present no voting.

Career and Technical Education:
Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $600,000 for the CTE Transportation program for FY 2028. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Vice Chair Zeck voting no.

Mentor Teacher Program:
Vice Chair Zeck moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $2.3 million for the Mentor Teacher program for FY 2028. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Professional Development
Mr. Hershberger moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $7.25 million in a three-year phase in of $2.5/2.5/2.25 million for the Professional Development program for FY 2028. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.

National Board Certification:
Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $360,000 for the National Board Certification program for FY 2028. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Vice Chair Zeck voting no.

Safe and Secure Schools:
Mrs. Potter moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $7.5 million for the Safe and Secure Schools grant program for FY 2028. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

E-Rate Infrastructure Match:
Mrs. Haas moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $500,000 for the E-Rate Infrastructure Match for FY 2028. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Mrs. Poter voting no.

KSDE Agency Operating Budget/KSDE Office Rent for FY 2027:
Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $250,000 to cover the increase in the amount of KSDE office rent that must be paid out of the State General Fund in FY 2027. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-2 with Mrs. Potter and Mr. Hershberger voting no.

State Board of Education Compensation (KSDE Agency Operating Budget):
Mrs. Arnold moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $138,500 to provide for State Board member compensation to be commensurate with legislator compensation for FY 2028. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.

Administrative Funding for E-Rate (KSDE Agency Operating Budget):
Mrs. Haas moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $95,920 to replace funding required to support school districts with the E-Rate process for FY 2028. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.

Universal Reading Screener (KSDE Agency Operating Budget):
Mr. Hershberger moved that the State Board of Education request a budget enhancement of $10.0 million to cover the full cost of the universal reading screener required by state law. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

ACT ON NOMINATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD VACANCY
Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

PSB Vacancy 07:17:24

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the appointment of Sydney Rummery to the Professional Standards Board in the Public School Teacher At Large position. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the appointment of Gretl Shelton to the Professional Standards Board in the Public School Teacher position. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mrs. Potter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the appointment of Amy Ward to the Professional Standards Board in the Private School Teacher position. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

ACT ON NOMINATIONS FOR LICENSURE REVIEW COMMITTEE VACANCY
Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

LRC Vacancy 7:22:07

Dr. New moved that the Kansas State Board of Education act to appoint Phillip Wrigley to serve on the Licensure Review Committee representing the Public High School position. The appointed nominee will serve a three-year term through June 30, 2029. Chair Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Math Standards 07:25:00

ACT ON MATH STANDARDS FOR NEW EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mrs. O'Brien moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the new educator preparation program standards for Mathematics 5-8, General Mathematics 6-12, and Advanced Mathematics 6-12 , and accept the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for educator preparation accreditation for Barclay College and program approvals for Bethany College, Kansas State University, Newman University, Ottawa University, and University of Saint Mary. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Science Cut Scores 07:30:30

RECEIVE SCIENCE STATE ASSESSMENT CUT SCORES

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Zach Conrad Division of Accountability and Technology

Dr. Conrad presented recommendations for Grade 11 science state assessment cut scores to be voted on in August.

- A standard-setting event was held June 17-18, 2026, with 10 panelists who developed cut score recommendations for grade 11 science.
- Panelists were selected to represent diverse subject-area expertise, geographic regions, professional experience, and educational roles.
- The process used a three-round bookmark standard-setting method, with panelists reviewing impact data before final recommendations.

Recommended Science Cut Scores

Grade	Level 2 Cut	Level 3 Cut	Level 4 Cut
Grade 5	510	540	582
Grade 8	510	540	569
Grade 11	510	540	574

All science assessments use a scale score range from 400 to 700.

Grade 11 Science Performance Distribution (2026)

Performance Level	Percent of Students
Level 1	29%
Level 2	41%
Level 3	23%

Level 4	7%

Comparative Science Performance (2026)

- Grade 5: 23% Level 1, 30% Level 2, 34% Level 3, 13% Level 4.
- Grade 8: 33% Level 1, 26% Level 2, 19% Level 3, 22% Level 4.
- Grade 11: 29% Level 1, 41% Level 2, 23% Level 3, 7% Level 4.

The recommendation establishes grade 11 science cut scores at **510 (Level 2), 540 (Level 3), and 574 (Level 4)**. Under these recommended standards, **30% of Grade 11 students would be proficient or above (Levels 3 and 4)** and **7% would reach Level 4.**

Cell Policy And Walkout

07:37:50

ACT ON CELL POLICY CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE
Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. Haas moved that that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the cell phone and social media policy certification process as presented. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. **Motion carried 8-1 with Vice Chair Zeck voting no.**

ACT ON STUDENT WALKOUT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE
Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. Potter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education move action on the student walkout complaint procedures to the August meeting. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0.**

Chair Hopkins recessed the meeting until Wednesday morning at 9:00.

Kansas State Board of Education
July 15, 2026

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All ten board members were present with Mrs. Dombrosky attending virtually.

PRESENTATION ON TECH IN THE CLASSROOM: THE VIEW FROM THE LARGEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN KANSAS

Wichita Begins the Video

Dyane Smokorowski, teacher, USD 259, Wichita
Superintendent Dr. Kelly Bielefeld, USD 259, Wichita

Dyane Smokorowski, Coordinator of Digital Literacy for Wichita USD 259, presented a vision for using technology purposefully to enhance student learning. The presentation emphasized that technology should not be viewed simply through the lens of screen time or devices, but rather through the opportunities it creates for students to access learning, connect with others, and demonstrate their understanding.

A central theme was that technology is most valuable when it helps students become creators rather than passive consumers. Wichita USD 259 focuses on four key commitments:

- Removing barriers to learning
- Increasing access to information and resources
- Connecting students with real people and places
- Encouraging students to create, collaborate, and share their work

The presentation highlighted how technology can support students who are learning English, have reading challenges, or benefit from multiple ways of accessing information. Tools such as text-to-speech, translation features, and adaptable text displays help students engage with grade-level content while maintaining high academic expectations. Technology is also being used to expand learning beyond the classroom. Examples included virtual experiences that connect students with experts, professionals, historical sites, national parks, and other educational opportunities that may not otherwise be accessible. Programs such as Kansas Day Edventure and Virtual Career Days expose students to diverse careers, experiences, and perspectives while helping them make connections between classroom learning and future opportunities.

Another major focus was student creativity and agency. Wichita USD 259 encourages

students to use technology to design, build, code, communicate, and solve problems. Initiatives such as Creative Minds and the Code to the Future program at Spaght Elementary provide students with opportunities to develop computational thinking, collaboration skills, persistence, and confidence through authentic projects and coding experiences.

Mrs. Smokorowski acknowledged concerns regarding technology use in schools, including issues related to balance, attention, and digital wellness. However, the message stressed that technology should be guided thoughtfully rather than embraced uncritically or rejected outright. Effective technology integration depends on educators designing meaningful learning experiences that place student growth and achievement at the center.

The overall conclusion was that technology's value should be measured not by the devices themselves, but by what students are able to do because of them. When used intentionally, technology can increase access, strengthen connections, support creativity, and empower students to become active learners and creators of meaningful work.

Superintendent Bielefeld shared specific programs that were in place in the district.

QUARTERLY REPORT FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC)

SEAC
01:09:20

Dr. Lena Kisner, outgoing chair of SEAC
Deputy Commissioner Dr. Renee Nugent
Lindsey Graf, (new) Director of Special Education

Dr. Nugent introduced the new Director of Special Education at KSDE, Lindsey Graf.

Dr. Kisner gave a brief report on the past quarter with SEAC and handed out a comprehensive report.

QUALITY INSTRUCTION: KANSAS ECO SYSTEM

Kansas Eco System
01:21:30

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Renee Nugent, Division of Learning Services

Dr. Nugent presented the Kansas State Department of Education's vision for strengthening student outcomes through a coherent, statewide approach to education improvement.

She emphasized school improvement is achieved by aligning systems, resources, and instructional practices around four key components:

- Quality Instruction
- Standards Alignment
- Structured Literacy

- Balanced Assessment

The Kansas theory of action is based on the belief that when schools focus on a few high-impact practices and create greater coherence across the education system, students will gain more knowledge and skills, leading to increased opportunities and success.

Quality Instruction as the Foundation
Quality Instruction is identified as the foundation of all school improvement efforts. It is characterized by:

- High expectations for all students
- Deep student engagement in learning
- Standards-aligned tasks and materials
- Intentional and cohesive instruction
- Data-driven decision-making

The goal is to ensure that every Kansas student has access to consistent, evidence-based instruction that supports rigorous learning expectations.

Supporting Elements
The presentation highlighted three complementary areas that strengthen quality instruction:

- Structured Literacy: Explicit and systematic literacy instruction grounded in the Science of Reading.
- Standards Alignment: Ensuring lessons, instruction, and materials are clearly connected to Kansas academic standards.
- Balanced Assessment Systems: Using multiple forms of assessment to monitor student learning and inform instructional decisions.

A Shift in School Improvement
Kansas is moving from a traditional model focused primarily on monitoring schools to one centered on supporting educational systems. The emphasis is on building capacity, collaboration, and continuous improvement rather than compliance alone.

The Kansas Education Ecosystem
The Kansas Education Ecosystem is described as an interconnected network of state agencies, districts, schools, service centers, professional organizations, community partners, families, and educators working together to support students.
Students remain at the center of the ecosystem, with every organization and partner contributing to stronger teaching and learning. While responsibility is shared across the system, success ultimately depends on supporting the educators and schools that directly serve students.

Tiered Supports for Schools
Kansas provides varying levels of support based on need:

- Universal Supports available to all schools and districts, including instructional tools, professional learning, and resources.
- Targeted Supports for identified schools and systems needing additional assistance.
- Intensive Supports for federally identified schools requiring significant intervention and improvement efforts.

All supports are intended to be evidence-based and focused on improving student outcomes through quality instruction.

Dr. Nugent concluded that Kansas can improve outcomes for students by:

- Building statewide coherence.
- Focusing on high-leverage instructional practices.
- Supporting systems rather than simply monitoring them.
- Strengthening collaboration across the Kansas Education Ecosystem.

The ultimate goal is stronger classrooms, better-supported educators, and greater opportunities for every Kansas student.

STUDENT PRESENTATION: COLIN BURKE, WINNER OF THE KANSAS CIVICS BEE

Colin Burke
01:46:59

Commissioner Steel introduced Colin and described this year's Civics Bee, which he attended. Colin shared his three-minute winning speech and his civics in action project to provide personal health items to students in school who did not have access to these items. He not only produced the idea, but he implemented it at his school and got other students involved.

RECEIVE LIFE AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS ASSESSMENT FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE SCHOOLS

Assessment
02:09:08

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Implementation and Supports

Dr. Scott shared information regarding the proposed Life and Employability Skills Assessment for Kansas special purpose schools. The assessment is designed to measure postsecondary readiness through the evaluation of universal life and employability skills and serve as an alternative metric to graduation for accreditation purposes in special purpose schools.

The assessment will be administered to students in grades three through 12 twice each year, with a minimum of six months between administrations. Teachers will complete the observation-based assessment.

The assessment measures student performance in the domains of self-determination,

independent living, community engagement, vocational skills, and general skills that span multiple domains. Student performance is reported using four levels: Limited, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced.

Annual reporting will include pre- and post-assessment average scores for all students across each domain as well as overall assessment results.

Dr. Scott clarified that pending approval, full implementation is scheduled to begin during the 2026-2027 school year. Baseline performance standards are expected to be established in June 2027, with assessment results to be reported to the Board beginning in July 2027. This item will be voted on in August.

RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL (ARC) RECOMMENDATIONS

ARC
02:26:16

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Implementation and Supports

The Board received an update on Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) version 2.0 and the recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Dr. Scott reviewed the KESA 2.0 accreditation framework, which began in the 2024-2025 school year and focuses on system-level accreditation through a continuous improvement process designed to improve student outcomes. The accreditation model includes evaluation in the areas of school improvement, student outcomes, and compliance.

He explained of the roles and responsibilities of local education systems, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), the Accreditation Review Council (ARC), and the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) within the accreditation process.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the Accreditation Review Council recommended accreditation for all participating systems except two. Hoxie USD 412 and Lutheran Schools were recommended for accreditation with conditions, with Lutheran Schools pursuing an appeal.

This item will be voted on in August.

Chair Report and Board Member Committee Reports

Reports and Comments
02:43:01

Chair Hopkins reminded the Board of the special meeting on July 28, at the 2026 KSDE Great Ideas in Education annual conference in Wichita. The purpose is to spend time with attendees and listen to their experiences about technology in the classroom.

Mrs. O'Brien and Dr. New both spoke about their experience in Washington D.C. in early

July, as they both attended the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) New Member Institute. They both enjoyed the experience very much and were grateful to attend.

Mrs. Haas also attended NASBE's New Member Institute and spoke at the conference, sharing her experiences as a State Board member of six years. She then stayed and attended the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

Mr. Hershberger had a virtual meeting with the leader of Ag in the Classroom, which Commissioner Steel also participated.

Mrs. Arnold shared she would be joining the Phillips Fundamental Learning Center as an ex-officio board member.

Board Travel Requests:

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests as submitted. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Board Future Requests:

Mrs. Arnold: Could there be recognition of the teachers in the Special Purpose schools?
Mrs. Haas: A "lessons learned" review of the school redesign initiative.

Board Comments:

Mr. Hershberger addressed his comments on teachers and communism. He was extremely disappointed in the way the press (The Reflector and the Hutchinson News) reported his comments. He supports public education and does not want to create more public discontent. He is not against teachers or public education. Quite the contrary, he is supportive of teachers and public schools. His comments were misinterpreted. He is deeply sorry for any hurt or damage that his comments caused. The reporting of his comments took them out of context.

Mrs. Potter brought up that September is Constitution Month. Sept. 17th is a U.S. federal observance that commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, in Philadelphia. She suggested this would be a good day to go into classrooms.

Chair Hopkins thanked Vice Chair Zeck, and especially Mrs. Dinah Zeck, for providing the patriotic decorations and the wonderful cookies for the Board meeting.

PRESENTATION ON KANSAS OPEN RECORDS ACT (KORA)
Matt Bingesser, Administrative Counsel, Office of the Kansas Attorney General

KORA
03:34:00

The Board received a presentation from Matt Bingesser, Administrative Counsel with the

Kansas Attorney General's Office, regarding the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) and the responsibilities of public agencies in responding to records requests.

Mr. Bingesser reviewed the purpose of KORA, which promotes public access to government records and requires public records to be available for inspection unless specifically exempted by law. Attendees were provided an overview of what constitutes a public agency and a public record, including records maintained in electronic formats such as emails, text messages, and other digital communications related to official duties.

The Board received information regarding public agency requirements, including the appointment of a Freedom of Information Officer, maintenance of records request procedures, and the responsibilities of records custodians. Guidance was also provided on handling requests for records, required response timelines, allowable fees, and the process for reviewing and redacting confidential information.

He outlined the distinction between records that must be withheld under federal or state law and records that may be exempt from disclosure at the discretion of the public agency. Common exemptions relating to personal privacy, personnel records, security information, internal communications, and other protected information were discussed.

Information was also provided regarding enforcement of KORA, investigative authority, potential penalties for violations, and resources available through the Attorney General's Office to assist public agencies in complying with open records requirements.

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will take place on August 11, 2026, first floor boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson in Topeka.

_____ _____

Cathy Hopkins, Chair Deborah Bremer, Board Secretary

900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3203
www.ksde.gov

Danny Zeck District 1
Melanie Haas District 2
Michelle Dombrosky District 3
Connie O'Brien District 4
Cathy Hopkins District 5
Dr. Beryl A New District 6
Dennis Hershberger District 7
Betty J. Arnold District 8
Jim Porter District 9
Debby Potter District 10

Agenda Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Kansas State Department of Education, Suite 102 (Board Room)

TUES., AUGUST 11, POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Landon State Office Building, Room 117
900 SW Jackson Street

WED., AUGUST 12, BOARD WORK SESSION
Special meeting: Work Session
August 12 | 9 a.m.
A work session will be held at the Docking State Office Building,
915 SW Harrison Street, Room 346 (The Cherokee Room)
to discuss potential policy on classroom technology use.
The session is open to the public. Please note that the session will be livestreamed.

TIME	ITEM	DURATION	PRESENTER
10:00 a.m.	Call to Order and Roll Call Mission Statement, Moment of Silent Reflection or Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance	10 min	Chair Hopkins
(AI)	1. Approval of July 2026 meeting minutes		Chair Hopkins
(AI)	2. Approval of Agenda		Chair Hopkins
(AI)	3. Approval of Consent Agenda		
	a. Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions		Director Wendy Fritz, Human Resources
	b. Act on Visiting Scholar License recommendations		Director Shane Carter, Teacher Licensure
	c. Act on request from USD 251 North Lyon County to hold a bond election		Director Dale Brungardt, School Finance
	d. Act on request from USD 251 North Lyon County to receive Capital Improvements (Bond and Interest) State Aid		Director Dale Brungardt School Finance

Kansas Leads the world in the success of each student.

(AI) Action Item, (RI) Receive Item, (IO) Information Item

TIME	ITEM	DURATION	PRESENTER
	e. Act on request from USD 436 Caney Valley, Montgomery County to hold a bond election		Director Dale Brungardt School Finance
	f. Act on request from USD 436 Caney Valley, Montgomery County to receive Capital Improvement (Bond and Interest) State Aid		Director Dale Brungardt School Finance
	g. Act to approve the McKinney-Vento grants for homeless students		Maureen Tabasko, McKinney-Vento Coordinator
	h. Act to approve General Math 6-12 content test		Director Shane Carter, Teacher Licensure
	i. Act to approve contracts to be paid by Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) to vendors, to approve requested purchases under proviso, and to approve contracts where KSSB is the recipient of funds		Superintendent Jon Harding, Kansas State School for the Blind
	j. Act to authorize out-of-state school district contracts for student placement at Kansas State School for the Blind		Superintendent Jon Harding, KSSB
	k. Act to authorize out-of-state school district contracts for student placement at Kansas School for the Deaf		Interim KS School for the Deaf Superintendents Joan Macy and Joelle Allen
	l. Act to approve change of vendor to serve as state advisor for DECA through June 30, 2029		Natalie Clark, Asst. Director, CTE
	m. Notification of three new members on the SEAC Board (Beth Zillinger, Kylie Steward and Jerrie Brooks)		Director Lindsey Graf, Special Education
10:10 a.m.	4. Commissioner's Report	20 min	Commissioner Steel
10:30 a.m.	5. Citizen's Open Forum	15 min	
10:45 a.m.	Break	10 min	
10:55 a.m. (IO)	6. Student Presentation: Tanya Ramesh, winner of 2025 Civics Bee	20 min	Commissioner Steel
11:15 a.m. (IO)	7. Presentation: Overview of through-year Innovative Assessment process (IADA)	45 min	Deputy Commissioner Zach Conrad, Division of Accountability and Technology

(AI) Action Item, (RI) Receive Item, (IO) Information Item

TIME	ITEM	DURATION	PRESENTER
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH	1.5 hours	
1:30 p.m. (IO)	9. **Quality Instruction:** Reading Corner Wichita State University/USD 259/KSDE Collaborative Summer Intervention Project Dr. Sherrie Frazey, USD 259 Dr. Kim Moody, Wichita State University Dr. Reagan Murnan, Wichita State University	30 min	Dr. Laurie Curtis
2:00 p.m. (IO)	10. **Presentation** on Federal Funds: a review of federal financial assistance	15 min	Deputy Commissioner Frank Harwood Gabrielle Hull
2:15 p.m. (RI)	11. **Receive** Evaluation Review Committee recommendations for higher ed program approvals	15 min	Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure
2:30 p.m.	Break	10 min	
2:40 p.m. (IO)	12. **Presentation** on Student Safe at School Act guidance	15 min	Dr. Frank Harwood John Calvert, Head School Safety Specialist
2:55 p.m. (AI)	13. **Act** on Student Walkout Complaint Adjudication	15 min	Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator
3:10 p.m. (AI)	14. **Act** on Life and Employability Skills Assessment for special purpose schools	15 min	Director Jay Scott, Implementation and Supports
3:25 p.m. (AI/IO)	15. **Act** on Science State Assessment Cut Scores and **Explanation** of Assessments vs. tests	15 min	Deputy Commissioner Zach Conrad, Division of Accountability and Technology
3:40 p.m. (AI)	16. **Act** on Accreditation Review Council Recommendations	15 min	Director Jay Scott, Implementation and Supports
3:55 p.m.	Break	10 min	
4:05 p.m.	Chair Report and Committee Reports	10 min	
4:15 p.m. (AI)	**Act** on Travel Requests	5 min	
4:20 p.m.	Board Comments	5 min	
4:25 p.m.	Future Agenda Requests	5 min	
4:30 p.m.	ADJOURN Next regular meeting is Sept. 8 & 9		

(Policy Committee meeting at 4:30 in room 117)

(AI) Action Item, (RI) Receive Item, (IO) Information Item

Agenda Number: **3 a.**

Meeting Date: **8/11/2026**

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Item Title: HR Board Materials

From: Grace Keating

Please see the attached document for personnel report.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Item Title: Personnel Report

From: Grace Keating, Wendy Fritz

Personnel Report:

Total employees 269 as of pay period ending 7/18/2026. Count includes Board members and part-time employees. It excludes classified temporaries and agency reallocations, promotions, demotions and transfers. Includes employees terminating to go to a different state agency (which are not included in annual turnover rate calculations).

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Total New Hires	3											
Unclassified	3											
Unclassified Regular (leadership)	0											
Total Separations	5											
Classified	0											
Unclassified	4											
Unclassified Regular (leadership)	1											
Recruiting (data on 1st day of month)	2											
Unclassified	2											
Unclassified Regular (leadership)	0											

Kira Williams to the position of Public Service Administrator on Communications and Recognitions team, effective June 29, 2026, at an annual salary of $53,310.40. This position is funded by State General Fund.

Stephen Anderson to the position of Education Program Consultant on the Special Education team, effective June 29, 2026, at an annual salary of $66,588.34. This position is by State General Fund.

Angelica Scaff to the position of Education Program Consultant on the Special Education team, effective July 20, 2026, at an annual salary of $57,782.40 This position is funded by Child Nutrition Admin; CACFP Admin; and SFSP Admin.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 b.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Shane Carter	Shane Carter	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on recommendations for Visiting Scholar Licenses

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the recommendations of Jake Steel, Commissioner of Education regarding a Visiting Scholar license.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

The Visiting Scholar license allows an individual who has documentation verifying the individual meets two of the three criteria specified below to practice on a temporary, limited basis in the content area of the individual's expertise.

Criteria to qualify for a Visiting Scholar license:

Advanced course of study or extensive training in the area of licensure requested.
Outstanding distinction or exceptional talent in the field.
Significant recent occupational experience which is related to the field.

Act on Recommendations for Visiting Scholar Licenses
Hesston USD 460 and Joel Garber

Hesston USD 460 requests Joel Garber be granted a renewal of a Visiting Scholar license valid for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Garber will teach a full schedule of music courses to students at Hesston Middle School and Hesston High School.

Mr. Garber completed over 80 hours of professional development training related to his content area and pedagogical strategies during the 2025-2026 school year. I recommend the request for renewal of a Visiting Scholar license be approved based on meeting two of three established criteria and completion of professional development training while serving as a Visiting Scholar during the 2025-2026 school year.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 c.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Jen Ashley		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 251 North Lyon County, Lyon County, to hold a bond election

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in an amount which would cause the district's bonded indebtedness to exceed the district's general bond debt limitation. USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, has made such a request. If approved, the district could hold an election on the question of whether additional bonds be issued. If the voters approve such action, the district could issue the bonds.

USD 251 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$31,145,000**) to pay costs to: construct, furnish and equip a new high school facility, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 1") at an estimated cost of$26,955,000; and to acquire a site for and construct, furnish and equip a new athletic complex, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 2") at an estimated cost of $5,390,000.

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed 5-2.

2. The district is not experiencing growth in enrollment.

3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.

4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.

5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.

6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.

7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.

8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.

9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.

10. Bond Project does include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

Summary of Appeal to State Board of Education to Allow Local Vote on Exceeding Debt Limit

Unified School District 251 North Lyon County **County: Lyon**

1. Current equalized assessed tangible valuation *	$108,902,087	
2. Percentage of bond debt limit	14.00%	
3. Amount of bond debt limit	$15,246,292	
4. State Aid Percentage	0%	2026-27 St Aid%

* Includes assessed valuation of motor vehicle

		Percent of Equalized Assessed Valuation - Current Year
5. Amount of bond indebtedness at present time	$0	0.0%
6. Amount of bond indebtedness requested	$31,145,000	28.6%
7. Total amount of bond indebtedness if request approved (Lines 5 + 6)	$31,145,000	28.6%
8. Estimated amount of bond indebtedness authorized without approval	$15,246,292	14.0%
9. Amount of bond indebtedness above bond debt limit requested	$15,898,708	14.6%

Forms Requested

(X) 5-210-118 General Information
(X) 5-210-106 Resolution
(X) 5-210-108 Publication Notice
(X) 5-210-110 Application
(X) 5-210-114 Equalized Assessed Valuation
(X) Schematic floor plan of the proposed facilities
(X) Map of the school district showing present facilities
(X) Small map of the school district showing the adjoining school districts
(X) Map of the school district showing proposed facilities

July 20, 2026
Date

Dale Brungardt
Director, School Finance

July 20, 2026
Date

Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner

To: **State Board Members**

Re: **Application to exceed the bond debt limit for USD 251 North Lyon County**

No 5-2	1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed unanimously.
No	2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
Yes	3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
Yes	4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
Yes	5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the district.
Yes	6. An outside architect was utilized in determining school district needs.
Yes	7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
Yes	8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
No	9. Several buildings are being consolidated under this propsal.
Yes	10. Bond Project includes facilities that MAY be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities

If only Prop No 1. passes, prorate at 100% on $25,955,000
If both Prop No. 1 and Prop No. 2 pass, prorate at 92% on $31,145,000

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number:

Staff Initiating:	**Deputy Commissioner:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date: 8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood	Frank Harwood	Jake Steel	

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, to hold a bond election

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in an amount which would cause the district's bonded indebtedness to exceed the district's general bond debt limitation. USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, has made such a request. If approved, the district could hold an election on the question of whether additional bonds be issued. If the voters approve such action, the district could issue the bonds.

USD 251 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$31,145,000**) to pay costs to: **Prop No. 1: not to exceed $25,955,000** to construct, furnish and equip a new high school facility, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 1") ; and **Prop No. 2 not to exceed $5,190,000** to acquire a site for and construct, furnish and equip a new athletic complex, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 2").

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed 5-2.
2. The district is not experiencing growth in enrollment.
3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.
6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.
7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.
10. Bond Project in Prop No. 2 does include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 d.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, to receive Capital Improvement (Bond and Interest) State Aid

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 251 North Lyon County, Lyon County, to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid. USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County has made such a request. If approved, the district would receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid to be prorated at 100 percent as provided by law. If the request is not approved, the district will not receive any capital improvement state aid. The bond hearing for state aid was held July 31, 2026.

USD 251 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$31,145,000**) to pay costs to: construct, furnish and equip a new high school facility, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 1") at an estimated cost of$26,955,000; and to acquire a site for and construct, furnish and equip a new athletic complex, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 2") at an estimated cost of $5,390,000.

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed 5-2.

2. The district is not experiencing growth in enrollment.

3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.

4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.

5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.

6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.

7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.

8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.

9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.

10. Bond Project does include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

Summary of Appeal to State Board of Education for Capital Improvement State Aid

Unified School District 251 North Lyon County **County: Lyon County**

1. Current equalized assessed tangible valuation *	$108,902,087	
2. Percentage of bond debt limit	14.00%	
3. Amount of bond debt limit	$15,246,292	
4. State Aid Percentage	0%	26-27 St Aid %

* Includes assessed valuation of motor vehicle

		Percent of Equalized Assessed Valuation - Current Year
5. Amount of bond indebtedness at present time	$0	0.0%
6. Amount of bond indebtedness requested	$31,145,000	28.6%
7. Total amount of bond indebtedness if request approved (Lines 5 + 6)	$31,145,000	28.6%
8. Estimated amount of bond indebtedness authorized without approval	$15,246,292	14.0%
9. Amount of bond indebtedness above bond debt limit requested	$15,898,708	14.6%

Forms Requested

(X) 5-210-118 General Information
(X) 5-210-106 Resolution
(X) 5-210-108 Publication Notice
(X) 5-210-110 Application
(X) 5-210-114 Equalized Assessed Valuation
(X) Schematic floor plan of the proposed facilities
(X) Map of the school district showing present facilities
(X) Small map of the school district showing the adjoining school districts
(X) Map of the school district showing proposed facilities

July 20, 2026
Date

Dale Brungardt
Director, School Finance

Dr. Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner

To:	**State Board Members**
Re:	**Application for capital improvement state aid for 251 North Lyon**
No 5-2	1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education was unanimous.
No	2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
Yes	3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
Yes	4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
Yes	5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the district.
Yes	6. An outside architect was utilized in determining school district needs.
Yes	7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
Yes	8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
No	9. Several buildings are being consolidated under this propsal.
Yes	10. Bond Project includes facilities that MAY be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities
	If only Prop No 1. passes, prorate at 100% on $25,955,000 If both Prop No. 1 and Prop No. 2 pass, prorate at 92% on $31,145,000

Date of Application	Election Date	Last Election	Last Successful Election
14-Jul-26	3-Nov-26	1-Nov-2017	1-Apr-1993

Amount of Bond	Length of Bond	Mill Rate Prop 1	Mill Rate Prop 2
$ 31,145,000	30	17.000	4.000
		$ 25,955,000	$ 5,190,000

Mail In Ballot	Interest Rate
No	5.500%

Prop 1	Prop 2
to pay a portion of the costs of the estimated $25,955,000 bond to construct, furnish and equip a new high school facility, and all necessary improvements related thereto. The balance of the costs will be paid from the available capital outlay funds of the district.	to pay a portion of the estimated $5,190,000 costs to acquire a site for and consruct, furnish and equip a new athletic complex, and all necessary improvements related thereto. The balance of the costs will be paid from the available capital outlay funds of the district.

KSA 72-5461	In determining whether to approve an application, the state board shall prioritize applications in accordance with the priorities set forth as follows in order of highest priority to lowest priority:
	Safety of the current facility and disability access to such facility as demonstrated by a state fire marshal report, an inspection under the Americans with disabilities act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., or other similar evaluation
	Enrollment growth and imminent overcrowding as demonstrated by successive increases in enrollment of the school district in the immediately preceding three school years;
	Impact on the delivery of educational services as demonstrated by restrictive inflexible design or limitations on installation of technology
	Energy usage and other operational inefficiencies as demonstrated by a district-wide energy usage analysis, district-wide architectural analysis or other similar evaluation

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number:

Staff Initiating:	**Deputy Commissioner:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date: 8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood	Frank Harwood	Jake Steel	

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County, to receive Capital Improvement (Bond and Interest) State Aid

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 251 North Lyon County, Lyon County, to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid. USD 251, North Lyon County, Lyon County has made such a request. If approved, the district would receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid to be **prorated at 100 percent on Prop. 1 ($25,955,000)** as provided by law. **If Prop No. 1 and Prop No. 2 both pass ($31,145,000) state aid will be prorated at 92 percent**. If the request is not approved, the district will not receive any capital improvement state aid. The bond hearing for state aid was held July 31, 2026.

USD 251 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$31,145,000**) to pay costs to: **Prop No. 1: not to exceed $25,955,000** to construct, furnish and equip a new high school facility, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 1") ; and **Prop No. 2 not to exceed $5,190,000** to acquire a site for and construct, furnish and equip a new athletic complex, and all necessary improvements related thereto ("Project No. 2").

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed 5-2.
2. The district is not experiencing growth in enrollment.
3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.
6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.
7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.

10. Bond Project in Prop No. 2 does include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 e.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, to hold a bond election

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in an amount which would cause the district's bonded indebtedness to exceed the district's general bond debt limitation. USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, has made such a request. If approved, the district could hold an election on the question of whether additional bonds be issued. If the voters approve such action, the district could issue the bonds.

USD 436 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$12,000,000**) to pay costs to: to acquire, construct, equip and install renovations and improvements in the District, including but not limited to (a) the District elementary school, including an addition with secured main entrance, a storm shelter; special education and early learning center improvements and other site improvements; (b) the District junior/senior high school building, including an addition with storm shelter, locker rooms, and special education; and (c) if sufficient bond proceeds are available after paying for the foregoing projects and bond costs of issuance, District parking lot improvements, track resurfacing, and all other necessary and related improvements (the "Project").

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education was unanimous.

2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.

3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.

4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.

5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.

6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.

7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.

8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.

9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.

10. Bond Project does not include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

Summary of Appeal to State Board of Education to Allow Local Vote on Exceeding Debt Limit

Unified School District USD 436 Caney Valley **County: Montgomery**

1. Current equalized assessed tangible valuation *	$74,432,623	
2. Percentage of bond debt limit	14.00%	
3. Amount of bond debt limit	$10,420,567	
4. State Aid Percentage	0%	2026-27 St Aid%

* Includes assessed valuation of motor vehicle

		Percent of Equalized Assessed Valuation - Current Year
5. Amount of bond indebtedness at present time	$1,785,000	2.4%
6. Amount of bond indebtedness requested	$12,000,000	16.1%
7. Total amount of bond indebtedness if request approved (Lines 5 + 6)	$13,785,000	18.5%
8. Estimated amount of bond indebtedness authorized without approval	$10,420,567	14.0%
9. Amount of bond indebtedness above bond debt limit requested	$3,364,433	4.5%

Forms Requested

(X) 5-210-118 General Information
(X) 5-210-106 Resolution
(X) 5-210-108 Publication Notice
(X) 5-210-110 Application
(X) 5-210-114 Equalized Assessed Valuation
(X) Schematic floor plan of the proposed facilities
(X) Map of the school district showing present facilities
(X) Small map of the school district showing the adjoining school districts
(X) Map of the school district showing proposed facilities

July 20, 2026
Date

Dale Brungardt
Director, School Finance

July 20, 2026
Date

Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner

To: **State Board Members**

Re: **Application to exceed the bond debt limit for USD 436 Caney Valley**

Yes 6-0	1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed unanimously.
Yes	2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
Yes	3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
Yes	4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
Yes	5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the district.
Yes	6. An outside architect was utilized in determining school district needs.
Yes	7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
Yes	8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
No	9. Several buildings are being consolidated under this propsal.
No	10. Bond Project includes facilities that MAY be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities

Summary of Appeal to State Board of Education to Allow Local Vote on Exceeding Debt Limit

Unified School District USD 436 Caney Valley **County: Montgomery**

1. Current equalized assessed tangible valuation *	$74,432,623	
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July 20, 2026
Date

Dale Brungardt
Director, School Finance

July 20, 2026
Date

Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner

To: **State Board Members**

Re: **Application to exceed the bond debt limit for USD 436 Caney Valley**

Yes 6-0	1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education passed unanimously.
Yes	2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
Yes	3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
Yes	4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
Yes	5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the district.
Yes	6. An outside architect was utilized in determining school district needs.
Yes	7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
Yes	8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
No	9. Several buildings are being consolidated under this propsal.
No	10. Bond Project includes facilities that MAY be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 f.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood	Dale Brungardt	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, to receive Capital Improvement (Bond and Interest) State Aid

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Under KSA 72-5461 et seq., a school district may request that the State Board of Education authorize the district to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid. 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County has made such a request. If approved, the district would receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid to be prorated at 100 percent as provided by law. If the request is not approved, the district will not receive any capital improvement state aid. The bond hearing for state aid was held July 31, 2026.

USD 436 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$12,000,000**) to pay costs to: to acquire, construct, equip and install renovations and improvements in the District, including but not limited to (a) the District elementary school, including an addition with secured main entrance, a storm shelter; special education and early learning center improvements and other site improvements; (b) the District junior/senior high school building, including an addition with storm shelter, locker rooms, and special education; and (c) if sufficient bond proceeds are available after paying for the foregoing projects and bond costs of issuance, District parking lot improvements, track resurfacing, and all other necessary and related improvements (the "Project").

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education was unanimous.

2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.

3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.

4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.

5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the state board of education.

6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.

7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.

8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.

9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.

10. Bond Project does not include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number:

Staff Initiating:	**Deputy Commissioner:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date: 8/11/2026**
Frank Harwood	Frank Harwood	Jake Steel	

Item Title:

Act on request from USD 436, Caney Valley, Montgomery County, to receive Capital Improvement (Bond and Interest) State Aid

Recommended Motion:

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Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

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USD 436 plans to use the bond proceeds (not to exceed **$12,000,000**) to pay costs to: to acquire, construct, equip and install renovations and improvements in the District, including but not limited to (a) the District elementary school, including an addition with secured main entrance, a storm shelter; special education and early learning center improvements and other site improvements; (b) the District junior/senior high school building, including an addition with storm shelter, locker rooms, and special education; and (c) if sufficient bond proceeds are available after paying for the foregoing projects and bond costs of issuance, District parking lot improvements, track resurfacing, and all other necessary and related improvements (the "Project").

Based upon the following criteria, staff recommends that this bond application be approved.

1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education was unanimous.
2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
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6. An outside consultant was utilized in determining the school district needs.
7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
9. No buildings are being consolidated under this proposal.
10. Bond Project does not include facilities that may be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities.

Summary of Appeal to State Board of Education for Capital Improvement State Aid

Unified School District 436 Caney Valley	County: Montgomery County	
1. Current equalized assessed tangible valuation *	$74,432,623	
2. Percentage of bond debt limit	14.00%	
3. Amount of bond debt limit	$10,420,567	
4. State Aid Percentage	0%	26-27 St Aid %

* Includes assessed valuation of motor vehicle

		Percent of Equalized Assessed Valuation - Current Year
5. Amount of bond indebtedness at present time	$1,785,000	2.4%
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(X) 5-210-106 Resolution
(X) 5-210-108 Publication Notice
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(X) 5-210-114 Equalized Assessed Valuation
(X) Schematic floor plan of the proposed facilities
(X) Map of the school district showing present facilities
(X) Small map of the school district showing the adjoining school districts
(X) Map of the school district showing proposed facilities

July 20, 2026
Date

Dale Brungardt
Director, School Finance

Dr. Frank Harwood
Deputy Commissioner

To:	**State Board Members**
Re:	**Application for capital improvement state aid for 436 Caney Valley**
Yes 6-0	1. The vote to submit the bond application by the local board of education was unanimous.
Yes	2. The district is experiencing growth in enrollment.
Yes	3. The community was involved in the process of the building proposal.
Yes	4. All required forms were properly filed with us, along with an appropriate notice for the election.
Yes	5. The district outlined the needs for the building project by responding to all questions required by the district.
Yes	6. An outside architect was utilized in determining school district needs.
Yes	7. The age of the existing building(s) appears to justify a bond election.
Yes	8. The application indicates that the building(s) are in need of major repairs in order to provide the necessary student programs.
No	9. Several buildings are being consolidated under this propsal.
No	10. Bond Project includes facilities that MAY be used primarily for Extracurricular Activities

Date of Application	Election Date	Last Election	Last Successful Election
15-Jul-26	3-Nov-26	8-Apr-2025	5-Jun-2007

Amount of Bond	Length of Bond	Mill Rate	
$ 12,000,000	12	20.000	drops to 14.65 after 3 yrs

Mail In Ballot	Interest Rate
No	3.720%

pay the costs to acquire, construct, equip and install renovations and improvements in the District, including but not limited to:

(a) the district elementary school, including an addition with secured main entrance, a storm shelter; special education and early learning center improvements and other site improvements.

(b) the district junior/senior high school building, including an addition with storm shelter, locker rooms, and special education; and

(c) if sufficient bond proceeds are available after paying for the foregoing projects and bond costs of issuance, District parking lot improvements, track resurfacing, and all other necessary and related improvements,

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 g.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Maureen Tabasko	Bert Moore	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on funding Recommendations for Education of Homeless Children and Youth Grants

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve recommendations for funding the 2026-2027 Education of Homeless Children and Youth Grants.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

The Kansas State Department of Education received $ 557,025 for the 2026-2027 Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Grants. The 2026-2027 EHCY grants are formula funded grants from the United States Department of Education. In Kansas, the grants follow a three-year cycle: the first year is competitive while the second and third years are continuation grants. The grant recommendations for the 26 – 27 school year are the third year of continuation grants.

The purpose of the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Grants, also known as McKinney-Vento" subgrants," is to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free and appropriate education, including public preschool education, provided to housed children. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homelessness as students who lack a regular, fixed and adequate night-time residence.

By providing direct services, the grant program is intended to remove education barriers and enable children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll and achieve success in school. Services are provided through programs on school grounds or at other facilities and, to the extent practical, provided through existing programs and mechanisms that integrate children experiencing homelessness with housed children and youth. The allowable uses of the McKinney-Vento subgrant funds include, but are not limited to, fees to participate in classes, eyeglasses, tutoring, before and after school programs, and school supplies and clothing.

The total number of McKinney Vento identified students in Kansas for the 2024 - 2025 school year was 9,293; an increase from the previous year's total of 8,799.

For the 2026-2027 school year, the following districts and amounts are recommended for approval:

USD 233 Olathe: $60,000
USD 259 Wichita: $60,000
USD 290 Ottawa: $60,000
USD 320 Wamego: $9,900
USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden: $60,000
USD 428 Great Bend: $15,000

USD 445 Coffeyville: $15,000
USD 457 Garden City: $37,125
USD 475 Geary County: $60,000
USD 500 Kansas City: $60,000
USD 501 Topeka: $60,000

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 h.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Shane Carter	Shane Carter	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act to approve cut score for the Mathematics (General) 6-12 licensure test

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt and set the cut score as follows: Mathematics (Test #5165) with a recommended cut score of 152.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Kansas statute 72-2162 requires the State Board of Education to prescribe and examination designed to ensure that the licensure of a person as a teacher is a reliable indicator the person has the basic knowledge and qualifications necessary to engage in the profession of teaching in the state.

Licensure Regulation 91-1-203 require all applicants to successfully complete pedagogy and content assessments prior to qualifying for an initial teaching license. A content assessment is also required prior to issuance of a new teaching endorsement or an initial school specialist or school leadership license.

Background: The mathematics content standards review team evaluated multiple options for the Mathematics (General) 6–12 endorsement, including the current Mathematics (Advanced) 6–12 assessment, the Middle School Mathematics 5–8 assessment, and an Algebra 9–12 assessment. The licensure team also explored the feasibility of developing a new assessment specifically for this endorsement. Following a comprehensive review of assessment content, alignment studies, and discussions with test vendors, the mathematics content standards review team recommended adoption of the current Mathematics (Advanced) 6–12 assessment with a qualifying score set one Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) below the current Mathematics (Advanced) 6–12 passing score of 159.

Reasoning: The review team determined that the Mathematics (Advanced) 6–12 assessment sufficiently measures the full range of knowledge and skills identified in the Mathematics (General) 6–12 endorsement standards. Establishing the qualifying score one SEM below the current Mathematics (Advanced) passing score maintains a rigorous measure of content competency while recognizing that the General endorsement encompasses a broader, less specialized level of mathematics content than the Advanced endorsement. This approach ensures alignment between the assessment and endorsement expectations. The Professional Standards Board recommended approval of the cut scores unanimously as well.

Upon approval, the test and cut score will go into effect immediately.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: 3 i.

Staff Initiating:	Director:	Commissioner:	Meeting Date:	8/11/2026
Jon Harding		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on Contracts and purchases under Proviso for the Kansas State School for the Blind

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education act to approve the Kansas State School for the Blind contracts for the SRO services, tech training for blind students on Microsoft products, evening nurse for dorm, and approve purchases under Proviso which are specifically for blind students, and approve the contract with Accessible Arts where the Kansas State School for the Blind is the recipient of funds.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

CONTRACTS TO BE PAID BY KSSB to VENDORS: Approved through Division of Purchasing, Dept. of Administration
KCKPD: $83,912.00 (SRO services)
Zack Group Healthcare Staffing: $57,446.00 (PT evening nurse for dorm)

REQUESTED PURCHASES UNDER PROVISO

What the Proviso Does: It grants KSSB the authority to approve local expenditures and purchases up to $20,000 directly through their governing body—the Kansas State Board of Education—bypassing the multi-layered approval or formal competitive bidding workflows usually overseen by the centralized State Director of Purchases. Why It Was Enacted: KSSB frequently needs to procure highly specialized, low-volume assistive technologies, sensory equipment, or specialized blind/low-vision contracted services. Forcing these unique, niche purchases through standard multi-agency procurement reviews caused significant operational delays for classroom materials.By mirroring the $20,000 localized bid exception threshold that local unified school districts (USDs) already enjoy under Kansas law ($K.S.A.\ 72-1151$),

NanoPac: DotPad X Multi-Line Tactile Graphics Display (s), ($20,000.00)
Selvas: Braille Sense 7 Braille Tablet(s), ($18,500.00)
Tactile Engineering: Cadence Pro tactile graphics and electronic braille display; ($12,000.00)
American Printing House: Educational Materials for Blind; (up to $10,000.00)
Sensei: Sensory Wayfinding Solution for Accessible Spaces; ($15,000.00)

CONTRACTS WHERE KSSB IS THE RECIPIENT OF FUNDS:
Accessible Arts: $133.847.00 (for student art services)

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 j.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Jon Harding		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act to approve out of state district tuition contracts for the Kansas State School for the Blind

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the out of state tuition district contracts for student placement at the Kansas State School for the Blind.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Out of State School District Contracts for student placement @ KSSB

West Platte, $50k
Trenton, $75k
Pleasant Hill, $50k
Excelsior Springs, $50k
Cameron, $50k
Raymore-Peculiar, $60k
Lawson (2), $100k
Kansas City MO $125k
Belton, $50k

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number:

Staff Initiating:	Director:	Commissioner:	Meeting Date:	1/1/0001
Deborah Bremer		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act to authorize out of state Tuition contracts for students attending the Kansas School for the Deaf

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize contracts for out-of-state tuition for the 2026-2027 school year for students attending the Kansas School for the Deaf.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

In order to prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, it is requested that the Kansas State Board of Education authorized the Interim Superintendents of the Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) to enter into contracts for out-of-state tuition with the school districts listed below.

KSD will receive payments from:

North Kansas City School District, Kansas City, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

Excelsior Springs School District, Excelsior Springs, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

Lone Jack School District, Lone Jack, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

Midway R-1 School District, Cleveland, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

Harrisonville School District, Harrisonville, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

Belton School District, Belton, Missouri - 1 Day Student - $50,000

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number:

Staff Initiating:	Director:	Commissioner:	Meeting Date:	1/1/0001
Deborah Bremer		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act to approve DECA vendor change from KState to KU (Natalie Clark)

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the request to change the vendor to serve as the state advisor for DECA through June 30, 2029, from Kansas State University to the University of Kansas.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

In December 2024, the Kansas State Board of Education approved KSDE to contract with Kansas State University to serve as the state advisor for DECA from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed $100,000 ($25,000 per year). Earlier this year, Kansas State University informed KSDE that it can no longer serve as the state advisor and the contract was terminated effective July 31, 2026. The University of Kansas has agreed to serve as the state advisor for DECA through June 30, 2029, for the same amount per year. Because the Kansas State Board of Education approved KSDE to contract with a specific vendor, KSDE is requesting approval to change the vendor.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: **3 m.**

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Deborah Bremer	Lindsey Graf	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Notification of three new members on the SEAC Board

Recommended Motion:

This is notification that the Special Education Advisory Council has appointed three new members: Beth Zillinger, Kylie Steward and Jerrie Brooks.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Jerrie Brooks - Representative of institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel.
Associate Professor MS in High-Incidence Special Education (Program Coordinator).

Beth Zillinger - Representative of other State Agency involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children.

Parent of a child with a disability (age birth through 26), My daughter has received speech and language services since age two due to a speech sound disorder, and she has been supported through an IEP for reading since second grade. She experiences significant difficulty with accurate decoding, which affects her reading fluency and independence in reading grade-level text. In contrast, her listening comprehension is above grade level, highlighting a clear gap between what she understands and what she can access through print. Her speech sound disorder, combined with decoding challenges, continues to impact her spelling, and written expression. These difficulties can make academic tasks more effortful and affect her confidence as a learner. She genuinely loves stories and is highly engaged in reading. However, longer texts such as chapter books or those with more complex vocabulary can quickly become overwhelming due to the demand of decoding. This can create a barrier between her strong interest in literature and her ability to independently engage with it. As both her parent and a speech-language pathologist, I work to reinforce the structured literacy, and language supports she receives at school and through private tutoring. Equally important, I am intentional about preserving her love of reading and helping her experience the power of literature, so she continues to see herself as a capable, motivated reader despite these challenges.

Kylie Stewart - Parent of an exceptional child ages birth through 26 years.

My child is a high school student with an exceptionality that has experiences in both public school and at the Kansas School for the Deaf. Her wide variety of experiences through Pk-high school has given me a unique perspective in meeting families and students' needs. I also teach graduate courses in special education at Pittsburg State University and taught K-8 high incidence learners before becoming a faculty member. I work with special education teachers across the state each semester who are completing coursework for special education licensure. This has given me a

unique perspective of the challenges facing educators across many school districts and coops in the state.

Agenda Number: 6

Meeting Date: 8/11/2026

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Item Title: Student Presentation: Tanya Ramesh, winner of 2025 Kansas Civics Bee

From: Deborah Bremer

Tanya will be a sophomore at Wichita Collegiate School in Wichita this fall. She is passionate about civic engagement and public service, and has done a lot of work focused on improving rural healthcare access in Kansas. She also volunteers at the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and plays tennis!

Her speech is addressed to the future leaders of our state—the Kansas Civics Bee finalists at the Kansas Leadership Center. It reflects her Civics Bee journey and discusses the importance of civics, leadership, America's 250th anniversary, and how young people can make a meaningful impact in their communities.

Agenda Number: 10

Meeting Date: 8/11/2026

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Item Title: Federal Funds Report

From: Frank Harwood

KSDE staff will provide a review of the federal financial assistance report required to be provided to the legislature in accordance with 2026 HB 2513 and 2026 HB 2618.

Agenda Number: 11

Meeting Date: 8/11/2026

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
(785) 296-3201
www.ksde.org

Item Title: Receive Evaluation Review Committee recommendations for higher education program approvals

From: Catherine Chmidling

The Evaluation Review Committee is submitting the following recommendations to the State Board regarding educator preparation program approvals for Bethany College, Newman University, and Ottawa University.

The educator preparation program review processes are guided by Kansas regulations 91-1-230, 91-1-231, 91-1-232, 91-1-234, 91-1-235, and 91-1-236, authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution. The current regulations were first adopted in 1997 and 2004, and have been revised and updated regularly as-needed.

The educator preparation program review process relies on peer review by trained education practitioners from P12 and higher ed, who review the preparation provider's specific license/endorsement preparation program for alignment to the license/endorsement preparation standards which have been adopted by the State Board of Education. The alignment review includes examination of programs of study; alignment explanations and assessment instruments.

Following the institutional application and receipt of program reports, review teams of trained evaluators were appointed to review the educator preparation programs for the above institutions based on adopted State Board policies, procedures and regulations. These are available for review by any member or members of the State Board.

Each review team's report and each institution's response to the report, along with the institutional reports, were submitted to the Evaluation Review Committee (ERC) of the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board. The Evaluation Review Committee consists of P12 educators, P12 administrators, and higher ed administrators, and forms a second peer review oversight committee which reviews each educator preparation provider's unit accreditation, license and endorsement preparation programs' alignment to the appropriate preparation standards.

The ERC, in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Board, prepared written initial recommendations regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to each education preparation program.

Each initial recommendation was submitted to the educator preparation institution and the institution was given 30 days to request a hearing to appeal the initial recommendation. For each of the providers, the ERC offered the opportunity for a hearing and prepared a written final recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the educator preparation program. These final recommendations have been submitted to appropriate representatives of the educator preparation institutions and are now submitted to the State Board, as attached, for consideration and approval of the ERC recommendations for program status.

A copy of the regulations covering this process is also attached. Staff will present the recommendations and be

available to answer any questions. These recommendations are planned to be presented in September as an Action item.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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July 14, 2026

To: Dr. Jake Steel, Commissioner

From: Evaluation Review Committee

Subject: Final Recommendation for program approvals for Bethany College

Introductory Statement:

On July 09, 2026, the Evaluation Review Committee reviewed applications for program approvals for Bethany College.

Documents that were received and considered include the Institutional Program Reports, Program Rejoinders, and KSDE Team Reports.

PROGRAM APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommend "Approved" status for the following Bethany College programs through December 31, 2033:

Biology 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-10
None

Mathematics 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Instrumental Music PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Vocal Music PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Physical Education PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Next program reviews Spring 2033

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July 14, 2026

To: Dr. Jake Steel, Commissioner

From: Evaluation Review Committee

Subject: Final Recommendations for program approvals for Newman University

Introductory Statement:

On July 09, 2026, the Evaluation Review Committee reviewed applications for program approvals for Newman University.

Documents that were received and considered include the Institutional Program Reports, Program Rejoinders, and KSDE Team Reports.

PROGRAM APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommend "Approved" status for the following Newman University programs through December 31, 2033:

Biology 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-10
None

Elementary PreK-6, I (traditional)
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-8 (2024 SOR-embedded)
None

Elementary PreK-6, I (Innov MAT LERP)
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-8 (2024 SOR-embedded)
None

History Government Social Studies 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-5
None

Speech/Theatre 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-6

None

Next program reviews Spring 2033

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July 14, 2026

To: Dr. Jake Steel, Commissioner

From: Evaluation Review Committee

Subject: Final Recommendations for program approvals for Ottawa University

Introductory Statement:

On July 09, 2026, the Evaluation Review Committee reviewed applications for new and continuing program approvals for Ottawa University.

Documents that were received and considered include the Institutional Program Reports, Program Rejoinders, and KSDE Team Reports.

PROGRAM APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

Recommend "New-Program Approved-With-Stipulation" status for the following Ottawa University new program through December 31, 2028:

Restricted, I, 5-8, 6-12, PreK-12, new
Areas for Improvement:
Standards 1-10, Science of Reading
None

> Proposed new programs can be given the status of 'new program approved with stipulation' or 'not approved.'
>
> New programs may be approved-with-stipulation for 2 years during which they are operationalized (extendable to a third year if not yet operationalized). A progress report is due after the second semester of operation to address the new program stipulation.

Recommend "Approved" status for the following Ottawa University continuing programs through December 31, 2033:

Art PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Elementary PreK-6, I, MA
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-8 (2024 Science of Reading embedded standards)

None

Elementary Unified K-6, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-11, Science of Reading
None

English for Speakers of Other Languages PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Mathematics 6-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Music PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Physical Education PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7
None

Next continuing program reviews Spring 2033

PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

KSDE's Evaluation Review Committee (ERC) renders program approval recommendations for the initial teacher preparation and advanced program levels of an educator preparation provider (EPP).

PROGRAM DECISIONS

New program approval decisions are:
- New Program Approved with Stipulation
- Not Approved.

Renewal program decisions are:
- Approved
- Approved with Stipulation
- Not Approved.

The responsibilities of the Commissioner and State Board regarding program approval are under regulations 91-1-234, 91-1-235 and 91-1-236.

91-1-234. Innovative or experimental programs.

(a) Any teacher education institution desiring to offer an innovative or experimental program to prepare personnel for positions for which no program currently exists, or to utilize a new approach or method for the preparation of education personnel in an existing program, shall submit a written application to the state board for consideration for approval of the proposed program. The application shall include the following:
(1) A written statement of the purpose and objectives of the proposed program;
(2) documentation of the need for the proposed program;
(3) a written statement of the competencies to be acquired by persons who complete the proposed program. These competencies shall include the knowledge and skills required for a beginning teacher or other school professional. This statement of competencies shall be based upon the purpose and objectives of the program;
(4) a written description of the curricula to be used in the proposed program;
(5) a written statement of the administrative structure for governance of, and responsibility for, the proposed program. This statement shall include a designation of the appropriate division, school, college, or department within the institution to act within the framework of general institutional policies on all matters relating to the program. The statement shall also include a designation of the financial and human resources that will be dedicated to the program during its initial five years of operation; and
(6) a timetable that specifies the following information:
(A) The sequence of activities that will occur;
(B) the anticipated schedule of evaluative checkpoints;
(C) identification of competencies to be acquired by the students; and
(D) provisions for program design changes, if necessary, at selected intervals in the program.
The timetable shall give the approximate dates on which periodic program reports are to be submitted to the appropriate institutional officials and the state board.
(b) Each teacher education institution offering an innovative or experimental program shall provide for continuing evaluation of the program, including performance criteria and follow-up at specified intervals. The provisions concerning evaluation of the program shall include a definition and

specification of the kinds of evidence that will be gathered and reported. Each evaluation shall provide information to identify areas in the program that need improvement and to suggest new directions for program development. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective Aug. 10, 2007.)

91-1-235. Procedures for initial approval of teacher education programs.

(a) Application.

(1) Each teacher education institution that desires to have any new program approved by the state board shall submit an application for program approval to the commissioner. The application shall be submitted at least 12 months before the date of implementation.

(2) Each institution shall submit with its application a program report containing a detailed description of each proposed program, including program coursework based on standards approved by the state board, and the performance-based assessment system that will be utilized to collect performance data on candidates' knowledge and skills. Each program report shall be in the form and shall contain the information prescribed by the commissioner. The program report shall include confirmation that the candidates in the program will be required to complete the following successfully:

(A) Coursework that constitutes a major in the subject at the institution or that is equivalent to a major;

(B) at least 12 weeks of student teaching; and

(C) a validated preservice candidate work sample.

(b) Review team. Upon receipt of a program report, a review team shall be appointed by the commissioner to analyze the program report. The chairperson of the review team shall be designated by the commissioner. The number of review team members shall be determined by the commissioner, based upon the scope of the program to be reviewed. Any institution may challenge the appointment of a review team member. The institution's challenge shall be submitted in writing and received by the commissioner no later than 30 days after the notification of review team appointments is sent to the institution. Each challenge to the appointment of a review team member shall be only on the basis of a conflict of interest.

(c) Program review process.

(1) In accordance with procedures adopted by the state board, a review team shall examine and analyze the proposed program report and shall prepare a report expressing the findings and conclusions of the review team. The review team's report shall be submitted to the commissioner. The report shall be forwarded by the commissioner to an appropriate representative designated by the teacher education institution.

(2) Any institution may prepare a response to the review team's report. This response shall be prepared and submitted to the commissioner no later than 45 days of receipt of the review team's report. Receipt of the review team's report shall be presumed to occur three days after mailing. The review team's report, any response by the institution, and any other supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the evaluation review committee by the commissioner.

(d) Initial recommendation. The evaluation review committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the state board, shall prepare a written initial recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the proposed program, which shall include a statement of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation review committee. The recommendation shall be submitted to an appropriate representative designated by the teacher education institution and to the commissioner.

(e) Request for hearing.

(1) Within 30 days of receipt of an initial recommendation of the evaluation review committee, the teacher education institution may submit a written request by certified mail to the evaluation review committee for a hearing before the committee to appeal the initial recommendation. Receipt of the

initial recommendation of the evaluation review committee shall be presumed to occur three days after mailing. This request shall specify, in detail, the basis for the appeal, including an identification of each item disputed by the institution.
(2) If a request for a hearing is submitted, the evaluation review committee shall conduct a hearing. The committee shall then prepare a written final recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the proposed program, which shall include a statement of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation review committee. The final recommendation shall be submitted to an appropriate representative designated by the teacher education institution and to the commissioner. The final recommendation shall be submitted by the commissioner to the state board for its consideration and determination.
(3) If a request for a hearing is not submitted by certified mail within the time allowed under paragraph (e) (1), the initial recommendation of the evaluation review committee shall become the final recommendation of the review committee. The committee's final recommendation shall be submitted by the commissioner to the state board for its consideration and determination.
(f) Approval status. Each new program shall be approved with stipulation or not approved.
(g) Annual report.
(1) If a new program is approved with stipulation, the institution shall submit a progress report to the commissioner within 60 days after completion of the second semester of operation of the program and thereafter in each of the institution's annual reports that are due on or before July 30.
(2) Each progress report shall be submitted by the commissioner to the evaluation review committee for its examination and analysis. Following review of the progress report, the evaluation review committee may remove any areas for improvement and change the status to approved until the institution's next program review.
(h) Change of approval status.
(1) At any time, the approval status of a teacher education program may be changed by the state board if, after providing an opportunity for a hearing, the state board finds that the institution either has failed to meet substantially the program standards or has materially changed the program. For just cause, the duration of the approval status of a program may be extended by the state board. The duration of the current approval status of a program shall be extended automatically if the program is in the process of being reevaluated by the state board. This extension shall be counted as part of any subsequent approval period of a program.
(2) At the time of an institution's next on-site visit, the new program shall be reviewed pursuant to K.A.R. 91-1-236.
(3) For licensure purposes, each teacher education program that is approved with stipulation shall be considered to be approved. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective Aug. 6, 2004; amended Aug. 12, 2011; amended July 7, 2017.)

91-1-236. Procedures for renewing approval of teacher education program.

(a) Application for program renewal.
(1) Each teacher education institution that desires to have the state board renew the approval status of one or more of its teacher education programs shall submit to the commissioner an application for program renewal. The application shall be submitted at least 12 months before the expiration of the current approval period of the program or programs.
(2) Each institution shall also submit a program report, which shall be in the form and shall contain the information prescribed by the commissioner. The program report shall be submitted at least six months before the expiration of the current approval period of the program or programs. The program

report shall include confirmation that the candidates in the program will be required to complete the following:
(A) Coursework that constitutes a major in the subject at the institution or that is equivalent to a major; and
(B) at least 12 weeks of student teaching.
(b) Review team. Upon receipt of a complete program report, a review team shall be appointed by the commissioner to analyze the program report. The chairperson of the review team shall be designated by the commissioner. The number of review team members shall be determined by the commissioner, based upon the scope of the program or programs to be reviewed. An institution may challenge the appointment of a review team member only on the basis of a conflict of interest.
(c) Program review process.
(1) In accordance with procedures adopted by the state board, each review team shall examine and analyze the program report and prepare a review report expressing the findings and conclusions of the review team. The review team's report shall be submitted to the commissioner. The report shall be forwarded by the commissioner to an appropriate representative of the teacher education institution.
(2) Any institution may prepare a written response to the review team's report. Each response shall be prepared and submitted to the commissioner within 45 days of receipt of the review team's report. The review team's report, any response filed by the institution, and any other supporting documentation shall be forwarded by the commissioner to the evaluation review committee.
(d) Initial recommendation. The evaluation review committee, in accordance with procedures adopted by the state board, shall prepare a written initial recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the program or programs, which shall include a statement of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation review committee. The recommendation shall be submitted to an appropriate representative of the teacher education institution and to the commissioner.
(e) Request for hearing.
(1) Within 30 days of the receipt of an initial recommendation of the evaluation review committee, the teacher education institution may submit a written request to the commissioner for a hearing before the evaluation review committee to appeal the initial recommendation of the committee. This request shall specify, in detail, the basis for the appeal, including an identification of each item disputed by the institution.
(2) If a request for a hearing is submitted, the evaluation review committee shall conduct a hearing. The committee shall then prepare a written final recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the program or programs, which shall include a statement of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation review committee. The final recommendation shall be submitted to an appropriate representative of the teacher education institution and to the commissioner. The final recommendation shall be submitted by the commissioner to the state board for its consideration and determination of program approval status according to paragraph (f)(1).
(3) If a request for a hearing is not submitted within the time allowed under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the initial recommendation of the evaluation review committee shall become the final recommendation of the review committee. The committee's final recommendation shall be submitted by the commissioner to the state board for its consideration and determination.
(f) Approval status.
(1) The status assigned to any teacher education program specified in this regulation shall be approved, approved with stipulation, or not approved.
(2) Subject to subsequent action by the state board, the assignment of approved status to a teacher education program shall be effective for seven academic years. However, the state board, at any time, may change the approval status of a program if, after providing an opportunity for a hearing, the state

board finds that the institution either has failed to meet substantially the program standards adopted by the state board or has made a material change in a program. For just cause, the duration of the approval status of a program may be extended by the state board. The duration of the approval status of a program shall be extended automatically if the program is in the process of being reevaluated by the state board.

(3) (A) If a program is approved with stipulation, that status shall be effective for the period of time specified by the state board, which shall not exceed seven years.

(B) If any program of a teacher education institution is approved with stipulation, the institution shall include in an upgrade report to the commissioner the steps that the institution has taken and the progress that the institution has made during the previous academic year to address the deficiencies that were identified in the initial program review.

(C) The upgrade report shall be submitted by the commissioner to the evaluation review committee for its examination and analysis. After this examination and analysis, the evaluation review committee shall prepare a written recommendation regarding the status to be assigned to the teacher education program for the succeeding academic years. The recommendation shall include a statement of the findings and conclusions of the evaluation review committee. The recommendation shall be submitted to an appropriate representative of the teacher education institution and to the commissioner. If the institution does not agree with this recommendation, the institution may request a hearing according to the provisions in subsection (e).

(D) For licensure purposes, each teacher education program that is approved with stipulation shall be considered to be approved.

(4) Students shall be allowed two full, consecutive, regular semesters following the notification of final action by the state board to complete a program that is not approved. Summers and interterms shall not be counted as part of the two regular semesters. Students who finish within these two regular semesters may be recommended for licensure by the college or university. (Authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution; effective Aug. 6, 2004; amended Aug. 12, 2011.)

Agenda Number: 12

Meeting Date: 8/11/2026

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Item Title: Student Safe at School Act Guidance

From: Frank Harwood

KSDE staff will provide a review of active shooter guidance required to be prepared by KSDE for schools in accordance with the Students Safe at School Act established in 2026 HB 2534.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: 13

Staff Initiating:	Director:	Commissioner:	Meeting Date:	8/11/2026
Frank Harwood		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Student Complaint and Walkout Procedures

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint the KSDE Office of General Council as the hearing officer.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

HB 2513 requires the State Board to adjudicate complaints pertaining to student walkouts in public schools.

Proposed procedure for the Student Walkouts was presented to the board at the June meeting. Due to a lack of time at the July meeting, it was decided that this item be moved to the August meeting.

Budget HB2513 sec. 88 page 155

(m) Notwithstanding the provisions of article 31 of chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, or any other statute, in addition to the other purposes for which expenditures may be made by the above agency from moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2027, as authorized by section 97 of chapter 117 of the 2025 Session Laws of Kansas, this or any other appropriation act of the 2026 regular session of the legislature, expenditures shall be made by the above agency from such moneys for fiscal year 2027 to establish a complaint process and penalty for any public school district that: (1) Experiences a student walkout and fails to obtain written parental consent for each absent student to leave the school building; (2) fails to enforce school attendance laws and policies with associated disciplinary actions for such absent students; and (3) has staff encourage, facilitate or enable such student walkout: Provided, That the state board of education shall adjudicate any complaints and determine whether a school district shall be assessed such penalty: Provided further, That the amount of such penalty shall be equal to the contract base salary of the superintendent of such school district for each school day that such school district experiences such student walkout: And provided further, That such penalty shall be remitted by the school district to the above agency and the above agency shall remit all penalty amounts to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto: And provided further, That upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund: And provided further, That each school day in which such school district experiences such student walkout shall not be counted as an instructional school day for purposes of the school term: And provided further, That for purposes of this subsection, "student walkout" means an organized effort for students to willfully violate school attendance requirements.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: 14

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Deborah Bremer	Jay Scott	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on Life and Employability Skills Assessment - Special Purpose Schools (Dr. Jay Scott)

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Life and Employability Skills Assessment as an alternative metric to high school graduation rate for accreditation determination in Special Purpose schools.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

As KESA 1.0 drew to a close, one of the gaps identified was how the model didn't recognize the unique educational settings in our Special Purpose Schools. For example, graduation rate evaluations were the same for special purpose schools as all other school systems across the state, even though our special purpose schools serve students with the most intense learning disabilities. In KESA 2.0, KSDE has moved to a region or cohort model of support to be able to better meet the needs of groupings of school systems that are similar. As the Special Purpose Schools cohort began meeting over 2 years ago, one of the ideas pursued was to develop assessments more appropriate and relevant to special purpose schools.

This idea and subsequent work yielded a Life and Employability Skills assessment that Special Purpose Schools have developed collaboratively, piloted during the current school year (25-26), and are prepared to fully implement in the 26-27 school year. This assessment is made up of common skills that apply to all levels of learners in all special purpose schools.

The plan is that all students in special purpose schools would be assessed once in the fall and once in the spring each year, so that each student's growth (or lack thereof) could be tracked on a yearly basis. Regardless of what postsecondary plans a student may have, these life and employability skills would apply and represent those that our Special Purpose Schools have agreed to prioritize in their educational settings. Representatives of each Special Purpose School met in June to finalize the Life & Employability Skills Assessment with universal skills, domains, common level descriptors, and common administrative and reporting practices (attached file).

The Director of Accreditation and Design is bringing this postsecondary-ready assessment to the Kansas State Board of Education as an alternative to graduation for accreditation purposes. The idea is that this assessment will provide a clearer picture of postsecondary readiness than graduation for students in Special Purpose Schools. Since this involves accountability for accreditation, **the ask of the Kansas State Board of Education is to approve this as an alternative metric to graduation.**

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: 15

Staff Initiating:	**Director:**	**Commissioner:**	**Meeting Date:**	**8/11/2026**
Deborah Bremer		Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on Science State Assessment Cut Scores

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the science state assessment cut scores as presented.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

The science state assessment scores were set recently and now need to be approved by the Board.

The PowerPoint presented by Dr. Conrad at the July 2026 Board meeting is attached.

Kansas Assessment Program

Dr. Zach Conrad
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Accountability and Technology, KSDE

July 14, 2026

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The Process

2026 KAP Science Grade 11 Standard Setting

- Standard setting event – June 17-18, 2026.
- 10 panelists, arranged in 2 tables, created recommendations for cuts in grade 11 science.

Selection Criteria for Panelists

- Licensure and endorsement for life science, physical science, and/or Earth and space science at the high school level
- Range of geographic setting (State Board districts) and context representations (urban, suburban, rural)
- Range of years of professional experience, race, ethnicity, gender
- Range of duties and experiences: teaching, instructional coaching, curricula, administration, special education, English learners, etc.

Bookmark Standard Setting

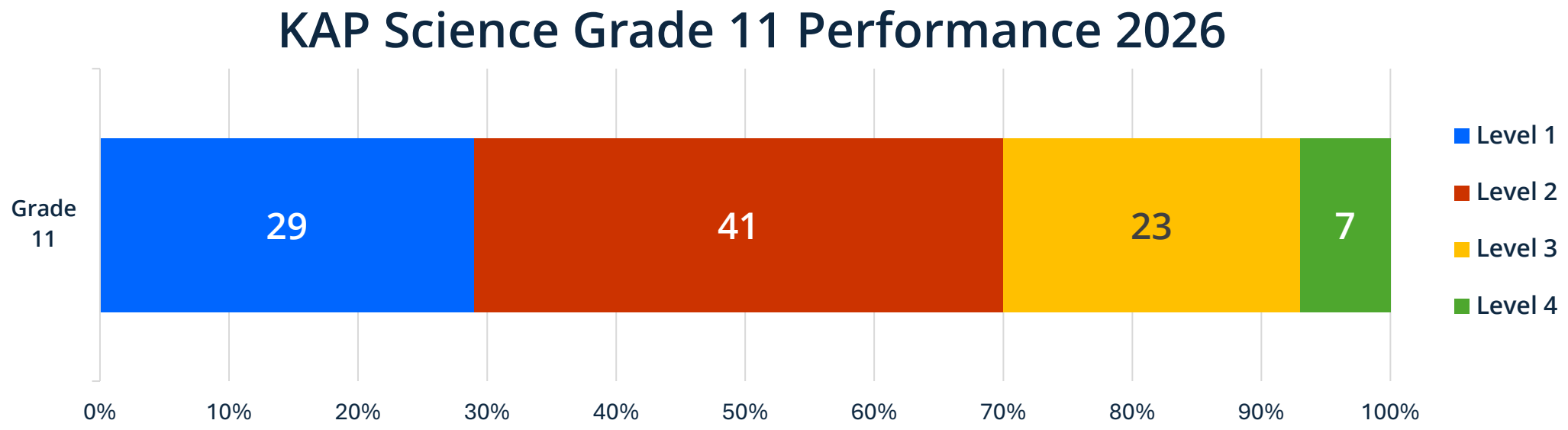
- **Round 1**: Independent bookmark placement
- **Round 2**: Independent placement after table discussion
- **Round 3**: Independent placement after whole-panel discussion and review of impact data:
  - 2026 grades 5 and 8 science
  - 2025 and 2024 grade 10 math and ELA
  - 2024 grades 5, 8, and 11 Science

The Impact

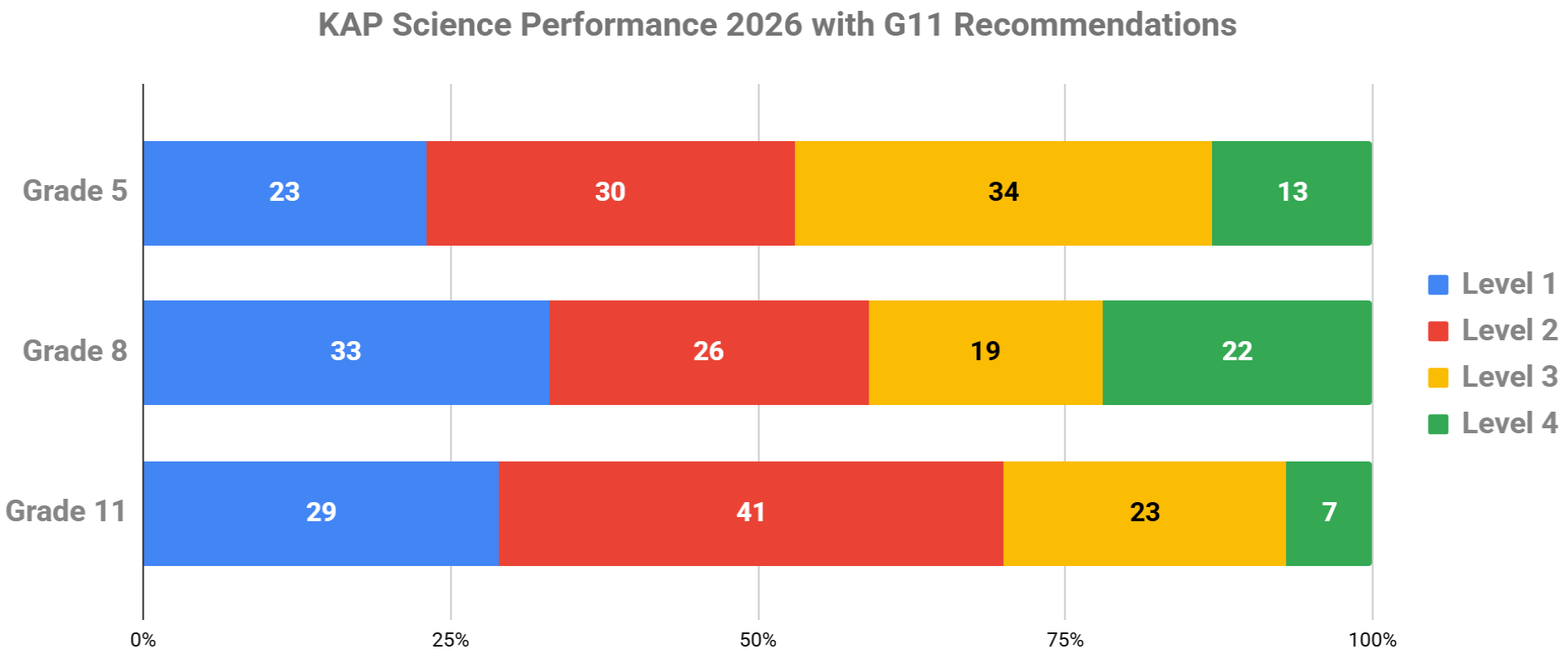
Science Cut Scores

	Lowest Obtainable Scale Score	Level 2 Cut	Level 3 Cut	Level 4 Cut	Highest Obtainable Scale Score
G5	400	510	540	582	700
G8	400	510	540	569	700
G11	**400**	**510**	**540**	**574**	**700**

Science Grade 11



2026 KAP Performance – Science



Questions



Dr. Zach Conrad
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Accountability and Technology
(785) 368-7356
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REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Number: 16

Staff Initiating:	Director:	Commissioner:	Meeting Date:	8/11/2026
Deborah Bremer	Jay Scott	Jake Steel		

Item Title:

Act on Accreditation Review Council Recommendations for Accreditation Status (Dr. Jay Scott)

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Accreditation Review Council's recommendations of accreditation status for school systems. The recommendations were as follows:

a. All systems except USD 412 Hoxie and Lutheran Schools - accredited

b. USD 412 Hoxie - accredited with conditions

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

In KESA 2.0, the Kansas State Board of Education accredits school systems each year, not once in every 5 years as before (KESA 1.0). As part of the KESA process (and in SBOE regulations), a third-party council of educators from across the state, representing the different regions of the state and positions in schools, called the Accreditation Review Council (ARC), evaluates each system against the KESA standards and makes a formal recommendation of accreditation status to the Kansas State Board of Education each year.

For the 2025-2026 school year, the ARC met in June to evaluate each system in two areas: school improvement and compliance. In school improvement, the standard for school systems to meet is to have submitted a KESA Action Plan that is or soon will be deemed Ready to Implement by KSDE's Action Plan Review team. With compliance, there are 10 compliance areas school systems must meet standards each year. Those evaluations are completed by the KSDE lead in each of those compliance areas.

On June 11, 2026, the ARC met to evaluate each system in school improvement and compliance and then vote to make their recommendations of accreditation status. To summarize their recommendations, the ARC voted to accredit each school system except for two systems, USD 412 Hoxie and Lutheran Schools. With those two systems, the ARC recommended their status to be "accredited with conditions". Both those systems were not in compliance for the last two years in Licensure.

For the rest of school systems, the ARC is recommending "accredited" status. The ARC based their recommendations on the two reports attached, the 25-26 KESA Action Plan Report and the 25-26 KESA Compliance Report.

The PowerPoint for this item that was shared at the July 2026 Board meeting is attached.

Accreditation Review Council (ARC) Recommendations

Kansas State Board of Education
July 15, 2026

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Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) Version 2.0

- KESA 2.0 began with the 2024-2025 school year.
- *Systems* accreditation as opposed to *building* accreditation.
- One-year cycle.
- For the 2025-2026 school year, there were 303 systems in KESA
  - 285 public systems
  - 6 special purpose schools
  - 12 private systems

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Accreditation Determination Areas



School Improvement

Student Outcomes

%



Compliance

Each accreditation area has:

- A **set standard** to meet.
- A **measure** to evaluate a school system's performance.
- **Supports to assist systems** in meeting the standard.

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KESA Evaluation

School Year	School Improvement	Student Outcomes	Compliance
2025-2026	Each System's KESA Action Plan evaluated for: **Clarity** **Alignment** **Data-based**	Outcomes were reported but not evaluated	Each System's compliance in each of the ten designated compliance areas evaluated
2026-2027	Each System's KESA Action Plan evaluated for: **Clarity** **Alignment** **Data-based**	Each System's KESA Graduation Rate is evaluated: **Comparison to state average** **Rate of change**	Each System's compliance in each of the ten designated compliance areas evaluated

KESA Roles and Responsibilities

Systems

Engage in the KESA Collaboration Process, including development and implementation of an action plan and being in compliance.

KSDE

Coaching, supporting, and evaluating each system, each year against the KESA Standards in School Improvement, Student Outcomes, and Compliance.

Makes a report to the Accreditation Review Council each year.

ARC

Reviews each system, each year against the KESA Standards. Makes recommendation of accreditation status to the State Board of Education.

KSBE

Determines accreditation status of each system in KESA.

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ARC Recommendations for 2025-2026

Accredited

- All systems except two were recommended to be accredited for meeting KESA Standards during the 2025-2026 school year.

Accredited with Conditions

- USD 412 Hoxie
- Lutheran Schools (appealing)