Quick **School State Facts**



Our Purpose:

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) promotes the mission of the Kansas State Board of Education (help all students meet or exceed academic standards) through leadership and support for student learning in Kansas.

The Kansas State Department of Education has primary responsibility for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on education in Kansas. Staff at the KSDE provide administrative, financial, planning, research, and program consulting services designed to address high priority education needs and goals and report high quality data to the Kansas State Board of Education, local school districts, the Kansas Legislature, the Governor's office, education policymakers, and the general public.

KSDE Mission:

Leadership and support for student learning. (FY 2002)

KSDE Values:

- Trustworthiness
- Collaboration
- Respect for Each Person
- Competence
- Continuous Learning
- Open and Effective Communication

Kansas State Board of Education

Kansas State Board of Education Mission Statement:

Our mission is to assist in fulfilling its responsibility to provide direction and leadership for the supervision of all state educational interests under its jurisdiction, the Kansas State Board of Education has adopted as its mission promoting student academic achievement through vision, leadership, opportunity, accountability and advocacy. The State Board believes that the key to ensuring the fulfillment of its mission lies in helping schools to work with families and communities to prepare students for success. (4/2001)

State Board of Education 2005-06 Goals and Objectives

Ensure that all students meet or exceed high academic standards by:

- · redesigning the delivery system to meet our state's changing needs,
 - identify, replicate, and promote best practice
 - study and clarify regulations and identify challenges
 - develop and implement policy on academic/vocational integration
 - examine the definition of a classroom in a redesigned system

providing a caring, competent teacher in every classroom,

- identify obstacles
- assess the effectiveness of current professional development practices
- identify, replicate, and promote best practice in teacher preparation and professional development
- develop policy on alternative compensation
- improve the support system for teachers
- · develop recruitment strategies for future teachers
- assess and improve the alternate licensure program
- promote loving, safe, supportive and nurturing environments

ensuring a visionary leader in every school

- identify, replicate, and promote best practices in preparation and performance
- identify and grow visionary leaders focused on learning
- study the impact of current leadership programs

improving communication with all constituent groups

- develop a structure for regularly communicating about education with the legislative leadership
 of both parties with a focus on areas of common interest
- · keep the public informed on key policy areas
- resume focus group meetings in each board member district and periodic meetings with the media
- improve communication of relevant information with school faculty

A historical look at Kansas education

Over the years, Kansans have been proud to boast of the quality of education students have received in their state. Kansas students ranked high in academic achievement when compared to their counterparts in other states. Our goals were that students: develop a knowledge of basic concepts; learn to interact successfully in society; and acquire the skills needed for a profession following their years in the classroom.

Our communities and the world around us have changed. With that change, Kansans have seen dramatic improvements in technology, business and communications. These changes have affected virtually everyone.

The Kansas State Board of Education agrees. To prepare students to be society's leaders for tomorrow, education must be restructured to include the new knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary for the twenty-first century.

Public Schools Information

Number of public schools: 1,401 Number of school districts: 296 Number of Students: 465,916

Number of public school teachers: 33,478 Average annual E-rate funding: \$12,332,964

State funding allocated specifically for educational technology: \$640,000

Total Operating Expenditures: \$3,634,923,493 Operating Expenditures per Pupil: \$8,114

Good News about Public Schools in Kansas

Math Scores Are Among the Nation's Best: Kansas 4th graders score 2nd highest in the nation in math in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). 8th graders score 8th highest in the nation in math in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). RCM

Among the Best in the Nation in Students Going on to College: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Kansas a grade of 99 for the proportion of students who go on to college, the 2nd highest score in the country. Kansas is one of the top 6 states in the percentage of high school graduates going on to college. HE

Among the Best Gains in the Nation in Students Going to College: The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education ranks Kansas as one of the top 9 states in the gains made over the last decade in students attending college. HE

More Students Are Taking ACTs: Since 1996, the proportion of Kansas graduating seniors taking the ACT college entrance examinations has increased by 7%. ACT

ACT Scores Are Rising: Since 1994, ACT college entrance examination scores in Kansas have risen four times as fast as the national average. ACT

More Public Schools Offer AP Courses: Since 1997 the proportion of Kansas public schools offering AP courses has increased by 18%. AP

AP Scores Are Among the Nation's Best: In Kansas, 70% of public high school students taking AP exams earn a score high enough to qualify for college credit. Kansas is one of the top 7 states in the proportion of public high school AP exam takers earning such high scores. AP

Public School Students Outperform Private School Students on AP Exams: Kansas public high school students are more likely than private and religious school students to receive grades on Advanced Placement (AP) exams that qualify for college credit. AP

More Teachers Nationally Certified: The number of Kansas teachers being honored with certification from the prestigious National Board of Professional Teaching Standards has increased more than four-fold since 2000. NBP

Gifted and Talented Program Among the Nation's Largest: Kansas leads the nation in the size and scope of its gifted and talented program. It is one of the top 4 states in the nation in the percentage of public secondary schools with a gifted and talented program. ESR

Among the Leading States in School Attendance: Kansas is one of the top 10 states in the country in the percentage of public school 8th graders attending schools without an absenteeism problem. EWQ

Schools Are Safe: No schools in Kansas were identified as "persistently dangerous" under the new "No Child Left Behind" law. EWQ

Even More Good News

Computers Highly Available: There is one computer available for instruction for every 2.4 public school students in Kansas, making Kansas one of the top 3 states in computer availability for students. Furthermore, there is one classroom computer available for every 6.3 public school students in Kansas, making Kansas one of the top 3 states in computer availability for students. MDR

Widespread Internet Access: Almost all of the public schools in Kansas (97%) have Internet access. MDR

Internet Use In Kansas Schools:

Students per Internet-connected computer: 2.9

Students per Internet-connected computer in classrooms: 6.0

Percent of instructional computers with high-speed Internet access: 85.9

Rural Education

Half of all public schools in Kansas are located in rural areas, and they serve nearly one-third of all students in the state—with close to one-fifth of those students in small rural schools. Although a composite ranking of 28 puts Kansas in the third quartile in priority for addressing poverty, the property wealth indicator (i.e., the tax base available to local districts) is among the lowest in the nation and per pupil spending on instruction is lower than all but nine states. Schools and districts are small, as are student-teacher ratios, and NAEP scores and graduation rates are both high. **Source:** WHY RURAL MATTERS 2005

Percentage of public schools in rural areas. KS = 50.0; US = 30.3

| Importance Gauge: Rank 11 | KS | Rank* |
|---|---------|-------|
| Number of students enrolled in rural schools | 150,814 | 25 |
| Percentage of students enrolled in rural schools | 32,4% | 14 |
| Percentage of public schools in rural areas | 50.0% | 11 |
| Percentage of all students attending small rural schools | 22.9% | 10 |
| Percentage of state education funding to rural schools | 30.7% | 12 |
| Rural student-teacher ratio | 13.1 | 38 |
| Rural NAEP math and reading combined score for grades 4 and 8 | 512.0 | 41 |

^{*}A rank of 1 is most important



Entered Union (State Birth Day): January 29, 1861, as the 34th state

Organized as territory: May 30, 1854 Present constitution adopted: 1859

Capitol City: Topeka

State officers:

Governor: Kathleen Sebelius, D (to Jan. 07) U.S. Representatives: 4

Lieut. Governor: John E. Moore, D (to Jan. 07) Secy. of State: Ron Thornburgh, R (to Jan. 07)

Senators: Sam Brownback, R (to Jan. 2011); Treasurer: Lynn Jenkins, R (to Jan. 07)
Pat Roberts, R (to Jan. 09)
Atty. General: Phill Kline, R (to Jan. 07)

Major Industries: Aircraft Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Education

Time Zones: Central Standard Time (few counties in the far west are in mountain time zone)

Nickname: Sunflower State (unofficial nicknames: Wheat State, JayHawker State) **State motto:** "Ad Astra Per Aspera" Latin for "To the stars through difficulty"

State Tree: Cottonwood, adopted 1937

State Flower: Native Sunflower, adopted 1903 **State Bird:** Western Meadowlark, adopted 1937

State Animal: The American Buffalo or Bison, adopted 1955

State Insect: The Honeybee, adopted 1976

State Reptile: The Ornate Box Turtle, adopted 1986

State Amphibian: Barred Tiger Salamander

State March: "The Kansas March," by Duff E. Middleton, adopted 1935 **State Song:** "Home on the Range," by Dr. Brewster Higley, adopted 1947

State Postal Abbreviation: KS

Origin of name: From a Sioux word meaning "people of the south wind"

Population: 2,688,418 (2000 - US census report that comes out every 10 years)

Male: 1,328,474 (49.4%); Female: 1,359,944 (50.6%). White: 2,313,944 (86.1%); Black: 154,198 (5.7%); American Indian: 24,936 (0.9%); Asian: 46,806 (1.7%); Other race: 90,725 (3.4%); Two or more races: 56,496 (2.1%); Hispanic/Latino: 188,252 (7.0%). 2000 the

percent population 18 and over: 73.5; 65 and over: 13.3; median age: 35.2

Land area: 81,815 sq mi. (211,901 sq km)

Highest Geographical Point: Mount Sunflower in western Kansas--4,039 feet **Lowest Geographical Point:** The Verdigris River in southeast Kansas--680 feet

Geographic Size: 82,282 square miles--ranked 15th in geographic size **Geographic Center of Continental US:** Near Lebanon in Smith County **Geographic Center of State:** In Barton Co., 15 mi. NE of Great Bend

Number of counties: 105 Number of state parks: 24

10 largest cities (2003 est.): Wichita, 354,617; Overland Park, 160,368; Kansas City, 145,757;

Topeka, 122,008; Olathe, 105,274; Lawrence, 82,120; Shawnee, 54,093; Salina, 45,833;

Manhattan, 44,733; Lenexa, 41,995





The State Board of Education believes that any redesign of the system must be based on a set of core principles. For more specifics on this subject contact the Board at 785-296-3203. The following identifies those principles and includes some examples to help clarify the intent of the board in regard to each principle:

- All students in Kansas must be held to essential and challenging learning standards as defined by the State Board.
- 2. All students must be provided appropriate instruction to successfully learn the essential standards.
- 3. The system must be flexible and adaptable to meet the learning needs of each student.
- 4. Curricular and instructional decisions and corresponding policies must be based on standards, data and research.
- 5. Professional growth and development that increases the capacity of those who work in the system to help all children learn well must be ongoing and continuous.
- 6. Schools must actively engage parents in the education of their children.
- 7. The community, through the local board of education, must be involved in establishing the expectations and determining the structure of the system and receive regular reports on its progress.

Endnotes

ACT - ACT, Inc., ACT Average Composite Scores by State, 1994-2004.

ASC - American Society of Civil Engineers. 2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure.

AP - College Board. 2004 AP National and State Summary Report Tables.

CCS - Council Of Chief State School Officers. State Indicators of Science and Mathematics Education 2003.

ESR - Education State Rankings 2004-2005: Pre K-12 Education in the 50 United States. (Morgan Quitno Press: Lawrence, KS). September, 2004.

EWQ - Education Week. Quality Counts 2005: State of the States.

MDR - Market Data Retrieval. Technology in Education 2003.

NBP - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. State-by-State Listing. November 2004.

DEF - National Center for Education Statistics. Digest of Education Statistics 2003. December 2004.

RCM - National Center for Education Statistics. Nation's Report Card: Mathematics Highlights 2003. November 2003.

NRE - National Center for Education Statistics. Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2001-2002. June 2004.

HE - National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Measuring Up 2004: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education. November 2004.

NEA - National Education Association. Rankings and Estimates: Rankings of the States 2003 and Estimates of School Statistics 2004. May 2004.

Planning and Research, Snider May 12, 2005

Kansas State Department of Education 120 SE 10th Ave. Topeka, Kansas 66612 785-296-3201 www.ksde.org