

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

OCTOBER 28, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

Task Force leadership Jim McNiece and Jarred Fuhrman opened the meeting with a few considerations.

- Reminded members of the State Board's definition of a successful Kansas high school graduate, which serves as a target and explains the "why" of the Task Force work.
- Highlighted further examination of the equity piece to make the product applicable to all students and all schools.
- Stressed the importance of the next two or three meetings as the final product emerges.
- Directed attention to topics such as special education, early graduation, funding/seat time.

Jim McNiece stated that seeking feedback from various stakeholder groups will occur once the Task Force has a more solid graduation requirements product in place. A brief report on sub-committee work to date will be shared with the State Board of Education in December. The final report will be presented at the State Board's May meeting.

The three sub-committees continued their work to formulate recommendations, which will ultimately be merged into one operational format.

Sub-committee leaders summarized group conversations for the entire Task Force, noting a few specifics:

- Christie Meyer – Courses or subjects to be added or deleted.
 - Grouping of credits and various options to provide flexibility for a student's Individual Plan of Study; consideration of future employability skills and other electives.
- Ed Raines / Melanie Haas – Mastery of Skills and Competencies.
 - Identifying potential barriers from the education community and solution strategies; examining impact of funding/seat time especially on smaller size districts; opportunity to market many of the flexible opportunities already available to schools regarding graduation requirements while moving to a bigger scale.
- Kelly Nusser – Value-Added Diplomas.
 - Avoiding barriers of value-added diploma attainment; ensuring suggestions meet the definition of a market value asset; promoting flexibility within school districts and involving the private sector.

The next virtual meeting is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, followed by meetings Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. Sub-committee reports will be presented to the entire membership at the Jan. 20, 2022 meeting.

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