

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

Jim McNiece reminded fellow Task Force members that part of the positive and thoughtful process of instituting change involves stakeholder input. He asked members to consider groups and organizations that should be asked to provide feedback on potential graduation requirements changes in Kansas. Presenting new information to the public will likely trigger additional discussion, he noted. Task Force members will serve as ambassadors to help share information about their work. Stakeholder input will be sought after sub-committee reports are presented to the entire membership in January.

Jarred Fuhrman referred to the State Board of Education's definition of a successful Kansas high school graduate, a definition the Board adopted in 2016. *"A successful Kansas high school graduate has the **academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills and civic engagement** to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation."*

The Oct. 7 meeting continued to be a prime time for sub-committees to work on narrowing the focus of their tasks:

Sub-committee leaders summarized their sessions for the entire group.

- Christie Meyer – Courses or subjects to be added or deleted.
 - Discussion centered on potential grouping of course categories tailored to flexibility, and to allow more options for students to meet their specific needs. Members took a closer look at electives as they relate to the definition of a successful Kansas graduate.
- Ed Raines – Mastery of Skills and Competencies.
 - Members are drilling down on deliverables to support a competency-based model, while informing different audiences and constituents. They are working to identify obstacles and develop strategies to address these barriers.
- Kelly Nusser – Value-Added Diplomas.
 - Polly Vader, Coordinator of Real World Learning and CTE Education for Piper High School USD 203, was a featured speaker. She talked about programming at Piper which helps students experience learning in non-traditional ways.

Mr. McNiece concluded by commending the high-level conversations occurring in the sub-committees. The next virtual Task Force meeting is scheduled for **9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 28.**

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