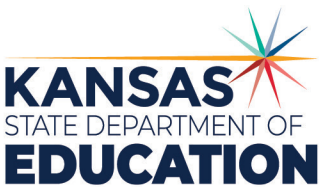




FOR EDUCATION IN KANSAS



*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*

Revised April 29, 2022

# VISION FOR EDUCATION IN KANSAS

## Background

The Kansas State Board of Education in October 2015 announced a new vision for education in Kansas — *Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*

The vision took nearly a year to develop. During that time, Kansans Can became the branded theme for the vision.

Kansas State Department of Education leaders and board members conducted more than 20 community visits across the state with parents, educators and business leaders. During these visits, Kansans shared their thoughts on education; what they believe defines a successful 24-year-old; important characteristics and skills for an employee; and more.

The feedback was compiled into data, which was then taken back into communities across the state to make sure we heard the voices of Kansans.

From there, board members and KSDE staff members identified five outcomes to help measure the progress toward achieving the new vision.



# Vision

*Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.*

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.

## Outcomes for measuring progress:



Social-Emotional Growth measured locally



High school graduation



Kindergarten readiness



Postsecondary success



Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest



*How do we get there?*

“**Kansans CAN** do amazing things! We teach. We change. We do ... and we do it well for our children in the great state of Kansas.”

— *Dustin Springer*  
*Valley Park Elementary School,*  
*Overland Park*



## Social-Emotional Growth

Academics are important. However, they alone don't guarantee a student's success after high school.

Throughout community conversations, Kansans said schools need to place more focus on helping students develop nonacademic skills, such as teamwork, perseverance and critical thinking, so they can be more successful in their postsecondary pursuits. In fact, students who lack these nonacademic skills may find it more difficult to find success in postsecondary education and the workforce.

Social-emotional learning is the process through which

students and adults acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions; set and achieve positive goals; feel and show empathy for others; and establish and maintain positive relationships. It also helps students and adults make responsible decisions.

Research from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) shows that schools that incorporate social-emotional and character development have more student engagement, decreased suspensions and improved academic skills.

The Kansas State Board of Education believes social-emotional growth should be measured locally.



Photo: Fort Scott USD 234



## Kindergarten Readiness

Early childhood experiences lay the foundation for a child's future achievement and academic success. In fact, 90 percent of a child's brain architecture is built before the age of 5.

The goal is that each child enters kindergarten at age 5 socially, emotionally and academically prepared for success. Many factors influence a child's start in life. Strong community partnerships are essential to support young children's early learning, healthy

development and strong families.

To advance kindergarten readiness, all Kansas kindergarten classrooms are utilizing a new tool to better understand students' development. The Ages & Stages Questionnaires provide a snapshot of children's developmental milestones. As caregivers know their children best, they complete both versions of the questionnaires.

This data won't be used to keep a child from entering kindergarten. Instead, it will help teachers build strong relationships with parents and ensure classrooms are ready to best serve incoming kindergarteners.



Photo: Emporia Public Schools USD 253



## Individual Plan of Study

Each Kansas student is on a unique journey. The Individual Plan of Study (IPS) serves to assist students and their families as they consider the many opportunities presented by public school attendance and community-based activities.

Many school districts engage in IPS activities that have been developed locally to fit their needs. But all Kansas students attending a public school, beginning in middle school, are supported in the development of their IPS based on their career interests through both a product the student develops and a process the school implements.

A student's IPS is developed cooperatively between the student, school staff members and family members and contains a minimum of these four components to fulfill state requirements:

- A graduated series of strength finders and career interest inventories to help students identify preference toward career clusters.
- Eighth- through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade course builder function with course selections based on career interests.
- A general postsecondary plan (workforce, military, certification program, two- or four-year college).
- A portable electronic portfolio.
- Supporting students in the development of their abilities and personal capacities is essential for their success and the success of the Kansas Vision.



## High School Graduation

Without a high school diploma, a student has almost no chance of ever achieving the middle class. That is why it is crucial that we make sure every student graduates high school with the skills and credentials needed to pursue postsecondary endeavors.

It is important to increase the percentage of Kansas students who earn at least a high school diploma so we can meet the projected education requirements for our future workforce.

The overall high school graduation rate was 87.5 percent in 2019. This is above the national average, but it still isn't enough. We need

to make sure every student graduates with the skills needed to be successful, whatever postsecondary plan he or she selects.

Those without a high school diploma qualify for only 17 percent of all jobs, primarily in sales and office support, food and personal service and blue-collar jobs. Many of these jobs may not provide a living wage or health care benefits.

Students who earn a high school diploma make about \$7,800 more per year than high school dropouts, according to the National Dropout Prevention Center. High school dropouts only earn about \$20,900 annually, while high school graduates earn about \$28,700.

By 2020, 71 percent of all jobs in Kansas will require some kind of postsecondary education and/or training.



Photo: Emporia Public Schools USD 253

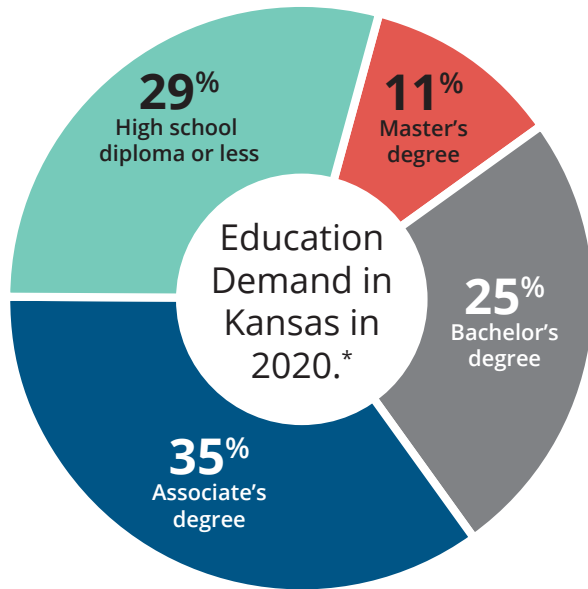


# Postsecondary Success

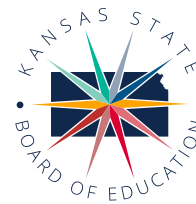
Much like a high school diploma, postsecondary success opens the door to a wide variety of opportunities. However, it is important to keep in mind that not every student will require a four-year degree. Some students may opt to attend a two-year or technical college or join the military — all of which play a critical role in preparing students for the workforce.

In order to meet the workforce needs in Kansas, the state will need more students completing a credential.

Most new jobs in the future will be “middle skill” jobs — those requiring a diploma, but less than a four-year degree.



\* According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the education demand for jobs in Kansas in 2020.



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## Mission

To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

## Vision

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

## Motto

Kansans Can

## Success defined

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.

## Outcomes

- Social-emotional growth
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study
- Civic engagement
- Academically prepared for postsecondary
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success

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“This  
is our  
**moon  
shot.**”

- *Dr. Randy Watson*  
*Kansas Commissioner of Education*

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