

# IMPACT STORY

## Konza-LiNK

Manhattan-Ogden  
USD 383



### TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

#### 2018

Set goal to enable students to communicate and learn with next-generation information.

#### 2021 and beyond

Opportunities for students to communicate and create.

#### 2019-2020

Resources, instructional coaching and professional development for educators. Literacy empowerment for families.

### MULTILINGUAL LITERACY

With LiNK funding, USD 383 purchased library books for school libraries in the heritage languages of students, providing an opportunity for multilingual growth in students pre-K-12th grade. K-LiNK also distributed more than 50 literacy bags with multiple books written in English and the family's native language.

Some languages represented in the area include Russian, Vietnamese, Pashto, Spanish and Chinese.

The literacy bags also include activities for families to complete together and information about the benefits of reading.

Families enjoyed the reading kits they received during winter break last year and beyond.



*Virginia Rodriguez, language access and family liaison specialist, prepared literacy kits for distribution to families.*

### CREATING MEANINGFUL STORIES

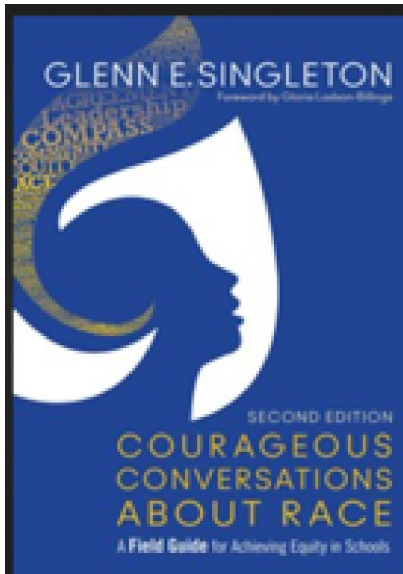
Manny Scott is one of the students from the highly acclaimed book "The Freedom Writers Diary," which was made into a box office hit movie in 2007.

Over the past two years, USD 383 educators learned Manny Scott's story and how to influence students to overcome barriers as he did.

By age 16, Scott's father was incarcerated, he dropped out of school, moved 26 times, and his best friend was brutally murdered. He began writing new, more fulfilling chapters in his life with healing, hope, perseverance and possibility, and now teaches students to do the same.

Scott will return in 2021 to help students begin to write their stories.

Konza-LiNK focused on the district's strategic framework strategy to "Provide a culture and environment to promote positive and productive conditions for learning, teaching and working." The following are examples of many book studies facilitated by K-LiNK project leaders and teachers:



### District-wide Book Study "Courageous Conversations About Race"

More than 125 participants registered within 24 hours of this book study announcement.

USD 383 internal educators, along with several community members, read the book and collaborated through a Canvas online classroom portal between sessions. The district also hosted a guest speaker from Kansas State University following the book study.

Through this collaborative exploration of a text, district staff and community members were able to dig into the components of literacy through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion.

### Students Receive multi-language novel study books

The K-LiNK novel project helped foster pride in students' multilingualism. New book sets conveyed the power of native and diverse languages standing equal with an inclusion lens for students to come to the table with their ideas and create content with next-generation skills in literacy.

Educators stress to students that their existing knowledge is a tremendous gift and useful for future projects. Teams also choose specific literature samples to invite students to reflect upon experiences of diversity, multiculturalism and connections to our standards and curriculum.

These rich conversations glean many insights and encourage students to notice details between languages and deepen their understanding of how languages work. With this cross-linguistic transfer, teams build linguistic bridges and learn skills in context.



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