



21st CENTURY SKILLS IN KANSAS

Kansas is focused on creating opportunities for stakeholders to work together to ensure student success by looking at more than the current content area measures of learning and identifying new ways to measure success that incorporate the skills and competencies students will need to live, learn, and thrive in a 21st century environment that demands innovation and creativity.

Accelerating technological advances, a rapidly changing knowledge base, an interconnected workforce, and an increasingly global society have combined to create the need for students to develop essential 21st century skills. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child's success as a citizen and a worker in the 21st century.

As Kansas looks to redesign schools by providing visionary educational leaders and effective educators, integrating academic and career/technical education standards, and continuing to improve teaching and learning from Pre-K through 20, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills offers an unprecedented opportunity to engage all stakeholders—students, parents, community, educators, business and industry, and government—in efforts to create innovative opportunities for Kansas students.

“We believe that the Partnership and its member states will assist in guiding us in our systemic and forward thinking educational improvement efforts. Additionally, as a national education leader, we believe the Kansas team can offer similarly important guidance to others as we tackle unprecedented challenges in educating students for success in an increasingly global and competitive society,” says Alexa Posny, Kansas Commissioner of Education.

P20 ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius has established the P-20 Council, whose members include policymakers, educators, and business leaders, to advise on a variety of initiatives in the state, including the Partnership of 21st Century Skills.

A COMMON VISION

The Kansas State Board of Education has specifically outlined the following goals which incorporate 21st Century teaching and learning:

- Redesign the delivery system to meet our students' changing needs.
- Provide an effective educator in every classroom.
- Ensure a visionary and effective leader in every school.
- Improve communication with all constituent groups and policy partners.

KANSAS MUTLI-TIER SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS (MTSS)

Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) provides an integrated systemic approach to meeting the needs of all students and using resources in the most effective and efficient way—facilitating each child's success. MTSS is a continuum of increasingly intense, research-based interventions provided to students that help them learn by responding to their academic and/or behavioral needs. The outcome is to ensure that each Kansas student achieves to high standards.

TEACHING IN KANSAS COMMISSION

The Teaching in Kansas Commission focuses on the teacher shortage, including the preparation, recruitment, retention and licensure of Kansas teachers. The commission develops recommendations for addressing the critical need to develop, retain, and support Kansas teachers.

INTEGRATION OF ACADEMIC CONTENT AND CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Specifically to address workforce development, career/education preparation, and student acquisition of 21st century skills, Kansas is improving access to Career and Technical Education by implementing integration of Academics and CTE Standards and requiring career planning and awareness.

KANSAS TECHNOLOGY RICH CLASSROOMS (TRC) PROJECT

Kansas's competitive Enhancing Education through Technology Grant project is a catalyst for promoting innovative 21st century teaching and learning opportunities incorporating 21st century skills. The project clearly focuses on content driven, project-based, technology-rich instructional practices in classrooms that are student-centered with intensive professional development support for participating teachers.

KANSAS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

The Kansas Educational Leadership Commission, a group sponsored by the Governor's office, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas State Board of Regents (Higher Education), and funded through a Wallace Foundation Grant, addresses the increasing need for visionary and effective school leaders. The commission develops recommendations regarding Professional Development and Educational Leadership Preparation.

KANSAS LEARNING FIRST ALLIANCE (KLFA)

The Kansas Learning First Alliance is a partnership of 28 leading educational associations with a common purpose: *to unite the education community to improve our outstanding public education system, pre-K through higher education, to empower each Kansan to succeed in the diverse, interdependent world of the 21st century.* The Kansas Learning First Alliance (KLFA) focuses its work around improving student achievement, strengthening professional development, and engaging the public.

KANSAS CAREER PIPELINE (KCP)

The Kansas Career Pipeline (KCP), a non-profit organization with the mission of engaging students in using the state's educational system to reach their career and life goals, is an online collaborative effort among various state agencies and many representatives from business and industry. The KCP provides many resources for schools and industry to utilize so that students make informed career choices through increased career awareness. The initiative also incorporates specific state-related workforce development needs.

KANSAS ACADEMY OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE (KAMS)

An initiative through the Kansas Board of Regents, the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) is a two-year residential academy for 11th and 12th grade students talented in mathematics and science. KAMS students enroll in college courses taught by the faculty of a post-secondary educational institution. Over the course of their time in the Academy, students earn a high school diploma and college credits that meet the requirements for an associate of arts or associate of science degree.

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