

# State Board News September 2014

## **Criminal History Records Check**

The Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) adopted an amendment to regulation K.A.R. 91-1-214 Criminal History Records Check. The amendment will require individuals applying for renewal of a valid Kansas teaching certificate or license to submit fingerprints\* if they have never submitted fingerprints as part of their initial certificate or license as of 2002 or due to a lapsed license.

*\*Please note: Actual effective date is still pending; please watch for updates from KNEA.*

## **Proposed licensure regulations 91-1-200, 91-1-201,**

The KSBE also voted to adopt amendments to licensure regulations which will allow a license option for Science, Technical, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and out-of-state applicants as a result of House Bill 2506, which was signed into law July 1, 2014.

## **Commissioner's Report**

Interim Commissioner Neuenswander announced US Department of Education approved the one-year extension of Kansas' flexibility waiver and removed the high risk status Kansas was placed on a year ago. Kansas was placed on high risk status based on use of SGM for teacher/leader evaluations. USDE approved Kansas' innovative method of showing multiple ways to demonstrate success. In addition, Kansas received approval to waive reporting state assessment requirements for 2014 as a result of the cyber-attack that impacted the reliability of assessment results. As a result it was confirmed Kansas will not use SGM until 2017-18 school year to make personnel decisions.

## **National PTA School of Excellence Recipients from Kansas**

The program supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

The honorees from Kansas:

1. Comanche Elementary School and Comanche Elementary PTA (Overland Park) Shawnee Mission School District
2. Frances Willard Elementary School and FEW PTSA (KCK) Kansas City Kansas School District
3. Oak Grove Elementary School and Oak Grove Elementary PTA (KCK) Turner School District
4. Shawnee Mission East High School and Shawnee Mission East High PTA (Prairie Village) Shawnee Mission District
5. Shawnee Mission North High and Shawnee Mission North High PTA (Overland Park) Shawnee Mission School District
6. Shawnee Mission South High School and Shawnee Mission South High School PTSA (Overland Park) Shawnee Mission School District

## **State Assessments**

Dr. Scott Smith, KSDE Director of Assessments and Standards, provided an update for the 2015 state assessment. New this year, English language arts and mathematics assessments will be administered to 10<sup>th</sup> grade instead of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. No performance test this year for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Tenth grade will have new performance items field tested in 2016. As year's all students in grades 4, 7, and 11 will be assessed in science. This being a transition year, there will only be only one part, with questions from the former assessment which are aligned to the new standards.

In an effort to avoid problems which occurred last year, The Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation has scheduled a “Break KITE Day” on October 28, 2014. All districts are encouraged to participate in an effort to test local technology infrastructures as well as KITE’s ability to handle high bandwidth usage in advance of the testing window scheduled for March 9-May 15.

#### **Coalition of Innovative Districts**

On August 27, 2014, the Board for Coalition of Innovative Districts conducted personal interviews with four applicants seeking Innovative District status through the Coalition of Innovative Districts. Applicants represented Hugoton USD 210, Santa Fe Trail USD 434, Kansas City Kansas USD 500 and Blue Valley USD 229. The Coalition Board approved all applicants except Santa Fe Trail USD 434. The KSBE has 90 days to either grant or deny the authority to operate as an innovative district, and has asked to hear from each of the districts prior to the final board vote.

#### **Emergency Safety Intervention Report from Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)**

SEAC will present their recommendation for an Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) appeals process to the KSBE at the October meeting.

#### **Higher Education Accreditation and teacher preparation program process.**

KSDE provided an explanation of the process for accreditation and program review in response to board members request on how KSDE ensures an effective educator is in every classroom. In addition an update on revisions of the professional education standards and program standards utilized for approved preparation programs.

#### **Applications are currently being accepted for Kansas Commissioner of Education.**

The online application can be accessed at [www.macnjake.com](http://www.macnjake.com). The deadline to apply is Oct. 15, 2014. McPherson & Jacobson LLC Executive Recruitment and Development serves as search consultants and assists the Kansas State Board of Education in identifying and screening candidates.

Next Board meeting – October 14-15, 2014