

# State Board News July 2014

## **Commissioners Report**

The U.S. Department of Education has invited states to extend their original waivers into the 2014-15 school year as Congress has not yet reauthorized ESEA. Interim Commissioner Neuenswander highlighted the three principles of the waiver – college and career ready standards and assessments, accountability with Annual Measurable Objectives, and teacher/leader evaluations.

## **Emergency Safety Interventions**

Catherine Johnson of the Disability Rights Center of Kansas spoke regarding a draft proposal for a dispute resolution process to aid parents with complaints about use of Emergency Safety Interventions.

## **Action on Recommendation Regarding 2014 State Assessments**

The Kansas Technical Advisory Council and the Kansas Assessment Advisory Council recommended against releasing specific data during the 2014 transitional assessment year. The board decided that KSDE will not produce or report any individual-, district-, or state-level assessment scores for 2014 and the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) will move forward with providing score-free grade and subject reports for students, parents and teachers on lessons learned including released items from the 2014 assessment and conduct focus groups with all audiences for reporting scores meaningfully in 2015.

## **Amendment Proposed to ESI Regulations**

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) introduced proposed K.A.R. 91-42-3 which would only exempt certified law enforcement officers from the Emergency Safety Intervention regulations. The need to exempt certified law enforcement officers is a result of direct conflict between the ESI regulations' prohibition on prone (facedown) restraint and a sworn, certified law enforcement officer's need to use prone restraint when effectuating an arrest.

## **Kansas Inductees into the National Teachers Hall of Fame were recognized.**

Jan Alderson, science teacher at Shawnee Mission South High School

Cindy Coachman, mathematics teacher at Buhler High School.

## **Professional Practices Commission**

PPC Chairman Calin Kendall presented the recommendation for 10 cases brought before the PPC. Mrs. Waugh moved to adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of the PPC and approve their recommendations on five of the cases, five additional cases were considered individually with four approved and one not receiving the necessary six favorable votes.

KSDE Attorney Scott Gordon proposed and the board approved the policy to give General Counsel staff the discretion to clear applicants for teacher licensure if, after sufficient review of the applicant's criminal history, staff finds it appropriate to issue the requested license within specific guidelines. This would reduce the number of cases presented to the Professional Practices Commission.

The board also approved Mr. Gordon's proposal that once the final adoption of amendments to the regulation regarding fingerprinting and criminal history records check, there will not be a need to include criminal history questions on licensure applications.

### **Coalition of Innovative Districts**

A draft of bylaws for the Coalition of Innovative Districts was reviewed. Comments and recommendations offered by board members were referred to the coalition for consideration at their next meeting on July 17. State Board members will vote on the bylaws at the August board meeting.

### **Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 Budget Options**

The board decided to establish Base State Aid per Pupil for 2015-16 at \$4,200 with a phase-in of \$100 increase each year for three more years.

### **Teacher/Leader Evaluation Program**

Dr. Scott Meyers, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, shared an overview of the last three years' work on teacher leader evaluation and development of the Kansas Educator Evaluation Protocol. Evaluations: Three Pilot Years

- First two years evaluations were based on KSDE-developed KEEP (2011-12 and 2012-13)
- Third year (2013-14) all districts selected and piloted educator evaluations from the state-approved list, and conducted trainings
  - Student Growth Measures selected and submitted
  - Final Summative Rating to be implemented

All evaluations in the state of Kansas are in full implementation for the 2014-15 school year.