

Kansas State Board of Education February 2015

Listening Tour

Incoming Education Commissioner Randy Watson and Interim Commissioner Brad Neuenswander completed Listening Tour events across the state hearing from more than 1000 attendees. The board will review the feedback and use it to inform the strategic plan for Kansas education.

Rose Standards Recommendation

KASB's Mark Tallman advocated the following recommendations based on the Rose Standards.

1. Every student have an individual plan for postsecondary education.
2. Graduation requirements be changed over time to meet three standards:
 - Demonstration of communications and other foundational skills by meeting minimum state academic standards (test, courses).
 - Districts could add their own requirements.
 - Demonstration of social (government/economic), health and arts/cultural knowledge as determined by local boards of education under State Board guidelines.
3. Each district develop and implement a policy on personal financial education for students to demonstrate sufficient economic knowledge.

Innovative District application from USD 364 Marysville

The board voted 9-1 to approve the Innovative District application from USD 364 Marysville, giving the district the authority to operate as an Innovative District within the bylaws of the Coalition of Innovative Districts. Marysville is the sixth district in the state of Kansas to acquire this status.

“Break KITE Day” January 29

Schools were afforded one last opportunity to test their systems prior to the opening of the assessment window on March 9. Reports from this test concluded the delivery system performed well. The only issues identified were local issues and assistance was provided schools where fixes were needed. It was also noted to the board that the state will be field testing multi-disciplinary performance tasks (MDPT) this year. Schools are being assured that the purpose of this field test is not to measure the students' performance, but to simply evaluate the quality and validity of the performance items. Each of the MDPTs require hand-scoring so CETE has subcontracted with Quest Star to provide training to teachers.

KSDE has begun Revision of the Elementary and Secondary Act Waiver

Beth Fultz, KSDE assistant director of assessments, reported ESEA revision for the period of August 2015-May 2018, must be submitted by March 15. KSDE will update the current waiver for submission.

Jim McNiece, Board Chairman and Board agreed to submit its position on ESEA Reauthorization. The notification letter was sent February 19, 2015

The next convening of the Kansas State Board of Education will be a one-day meeting scheduled March 10, in room 103 of the Landon State Office Building. The Kansas State Board will have its annual meeting with the Kansas State School for the Deaf and Kansas State School for the Blind on March 11.