

TUESDAY MINUTES

Approved at September 2025 meeting



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Kansas State Board of Education
August 12th, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 12, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. Chair Hopkins recited the Board mission statement and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:

Mrs. Betty Arnold

Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky

Mrs. Melanie Haas

Mr. Dennis Hershberger

Mrs. Cathy Hopkins, Chair

Dr. Beryl New

Mrs. Connie O'Brien

Mrs. Debby Potter

Mr. Jim Porter

Mr. Danny Zeck, Vice Chair

Mr. Mark Ferguson, Board Attorney and Commissioner Watson were seated at the Board table.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR JULY 2025

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the minutes for the July 8 & 9, 2025 meeting. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Minutes
Agenda and
Consent
4:20

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the agenda, removing item 17 on Tuesday, and replacing item 4 on Wednesday with a NASBE dues receive item. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

ACT ON CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Receive personnel report
- b. Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) item on accessible arts
- c. KSSB item on Resource officer

- d. KSSB item on KCK policy security contract
- e. Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas School for the Deaf item on out of state contracts for Missouri students
- f. Act on local professional development plans
- g. Act on recommendation for a visiting scholar license
- h. Act on recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0.**

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson

Dr. Watson
6:22

Dr. Watson shared some of his experience at the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) that he recently attended. Many of the discussions were about AI Technology. There is a disruption of federal funding across the country. His recent visit with the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), a high school organization that has a big impact on graduating students, showed the power of people who are passionate about helping students. He invited the Board to listen to the most recent Insight Podcast, an episode with Ben Proctor and Blake Vargas about the importance of academic rigor.

Expanding on the concept of rigor, Dr. Watson suggested that the standards need to be taught to levels 3 & 4 EVERY day to EVERY student. Accelerating students in middle and high school and increasing the percentage of students in 2-5 activities will increase student success.

Technology, AI, screentime, personal devices, district owned devices, are all vital topics that the Board has and will continue to address. Dr. Watson envisions two more sections of research and guidance to districts; one focused on AI and the other on district issued technology devices.

CITIZENS' FORUM

Kim Whitman, Overland Park, representing Kansas students, spoke about returning to traditional teaching methods that are proven effective. She shared a resolution, adapted from Burke County Schools in North Carolina, which focused on traditional methods, and less dependency on digital devices/curriculum.

Judith Deedy, Mission Hills, Game On for Kansas Schools, spoke in support of amending the cut scores to more accurately reflect student achievement. Her personal experience with her children has led her to believe there is a disconnect between an assessment test that is 10 years old, and the abilities of her kids.

Forum
37:00

Emily Brownlee, Overland Park, representing Kansas students, spoke about how screentime affects the developing brain of a child. She read a section from *Reset Your Child's Brain* by Victoria Dunckley. Screentime in schools has detrimental effects on the cognitive and social development of young children and teenagers' brains.

ACT ON BOARD GOALS

Dr. Randy Watson, Commissioner

Board Goals
49:30

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the Board goals as presented. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2, with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter voting no.

Quality School Improvement

We will support and emphasize the four fundamentals of school improvement in the KESA process.

Quality Leadership Development

We have a culture of high expectations in our classrooms, buildings and districts so that each student has access to quality instruction, grade level standards and expectations for success.

Policy, Regulation & Alignment

We will eliminate, align and design policies and regulations in pre-K-12 to enhance the school improvement process, allowing school systems to focus on student success.

Presentation on timeline for updating the Kansas Assessment Program

R. Scott Gordon, Kansas State Department of Education, General Counsel

KAP timeline
1:25:56

Mr. Gordon explained the differences and the interplay between academic standards, assessment standards, the role of the Kansas State Board of Education, and the timelines for the most recent reviews, revisions, and adoptions of each. He also described the timeline for negotiating and executing the current contracts that support the Kansas Assessment Program.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel

PPC
1:38:24

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the surrender and revoke the license in case 25-PPC-06. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION MEMBERS

R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel

PPC
members
1:45:00

Middle School Principal

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint Clinton Shipley to the Professional Practices Commission to a three year term effective immediately. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Elementary School Principal

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint Brittney Jennings to the Professional Practices Commission to a three year term effective immediately. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Classroom Teacher

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint Charrica Osborne to the Professional Practices Commission to a three year term effective immediately. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

ACT ON STATE ASSESSMENT CUT SCORES

Beth Fultz, Director, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

Cut Scores
3:32:12

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the proposed Kansas assessment scale and cut scores for the 2025 revised state assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, with a concordance that links the previous state assessment to the revised one to be provided by the Kansas State Department of Education by October 2025. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-3 with Mrs. Dombrosky, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Potter voting no.

READING CORNER: August Back to School

Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Literacy/Dyslexia Program Manager
Regina Schutt and Laura Rowley, Reading instructors, Wichita, USD 259

Reading
Corner
4:29:55

Mrs. Schutt and Mrs. Rowley shared the remarkable work that is being done with reading instruction in their district. The program "Starting off Strong, using the Science of Reading from Knowledge to Application" is a kindergarten program designed to teach the alphabet and involves both students and their families.

ACT ON KESA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design

KESA Grad
5:12:20

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the KESA Graduation Standards as presented to go into effect beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter present not voting.

RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design

ARC
5:38:45

The Accreditation Review Council (ARC) is made up of educators, diverse in role and geographic location, which is charged with making a recommendation of accreditation status for every system, every year to the State Board of Education. This receive item is comprised of the ARC's recommendations of accreditation status for each system in KESA (303 school systems in 24-25). The ARC makes their recommendations of accreditation by reviewing reports prepared by KSDE showing how each school system in KESA either met or did not meet KESA standards.

For 2024-2025, KSDE evaluated school systems in two areas, School Improvement and Compliance. In School Improvement, KSDE's Action Plan Review team evaluated each system's KESA Action Plan for clarity, alignment to the 4 Fundamentals, and being data-driven. A school system meeting those criteria would result in having a Ready-to-Implement KESA Action Plan. In Compliance, each system was evaluated by a lead team at KSDE against the standards for being "in compliance". The ARC reviewed the attached reports (Action Plan status, Compliance status) and then voted on a recommendation of accreditation status for each system during an early July meeting.

During the meeting, the ARC voted to recommend every school system in KESA to be accredited based on the attached reports.

Every school system in KESA has a Ready-to-Implement KESA Action Plan, meeting the KESA standards in School Improvement. In Compliance, the majority of the school systems met the standards in each of the 14 KESA Compliance areas. There are several school systems that are Not In Compliance in a few Compliance areas, however, this is the first year for those particular school systems to be Not In Compliance and, following our evaluation process, a school system's accreditation status is not affected when not meeting standards for one year. If a school system does not meet standards for two consecutive years in the same KESA area, that is when the ARC will complete a more in-depth review to determine if the system should remain accredited or be accredited with conditions.

Therefore, while not all school systems met standards in each KESA Compliance area, the ARC, following our KESA process, is recommending each school system to remain accredited. The school systems that did not meet KESA Compliance standards have been

notified.

So, as a receive item, the Accreditation Review Council is recommending each school system in KESA to be accredited for the 25-26 school year.

OVERVIEW OF STATUTORY, REGULATORY, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel

Regulations
5:54:10

Mr. Gordon gave a presentation on Regulatory Law. The inverted pyramid is 1) Federal Courts, 2) United States Constitution, 3) Federal Statutes and Regulations, 4) State Courts, 5) State Constitutions, 6) State Statutes, and 7) State Agency Regulations.

The state Board, according to the Kansas Constitution Article 6, Section 2, shall have general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the educational interests of the state, except those delegated by law to Kanas Board of Regents. This was further defined in the Peabody case of 1973 [212 Kan. 482] which concluded the Board's supervisory powers [are] self-executing once the legislature has established the Board; thus, the Board can exercise its constitutional power of supervision without ancillary legislation.

In defining regulation, he explained it is a "Standard, requirement or other policy of general application that has the force and effect of law, issued or adopted by a state agency to implement or interpret legislation." There are a number of sources for these regulations: 1) Legislation/statutes that authorize or call for regulations; 2) Advisory Councils; 3) State Board of Education directives; 4) Requests/recommendations from KSDE; 5. Misc. Regulations are reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

RECEIVE EVALUATION REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVALS

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Assistant Director, Teacher Licensure

ERC
6:30:28

PROGRAM APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend "Approved" status for Emporia State University programs through December 31, 2032:

Building Leadership PreK-12, A

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

Chemistry 6-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-8

None

District Leadership PreK-12, A

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

English Language Arts 6-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7, Science of Reading

None

Gifted PreK-12, A

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-6

None

Health PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-5

None

Music-Instrumental PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

Music-Vocal PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

Physical Education PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

Speech/Theatre 6-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-6

None

World Languages PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-8

None

RECEIVE REQUEST TO CONTRACT WITH AMERICA LEARNS FOR AMERICORPS PERFORMANCE

Dr. Jessica Dorsey, Kansas Volunteer Commission

Americorps
6:38:30

The Kansas Volunteer Commission will contract with America Learns, LLC, for the AmeriCorps Impact Suite, which is a subgrantee progress and financial monitoring system. This system will be utilized to monitor the approximately \$2 million dollars in grant funds allocated to AmeriCorps Kansas subgrantees.

In 2021, we moved to the America Learns system because it has budget templates aligned to the requirements of our federal funder, preloaded performance measures aligned to our required performance measure instructions, and a time sheet system for AmeriCorps members to record their service time. We also had a growing need to develop an electronic system for maintaining the files of our 250+ AmeriCorps members across the state for compliance and monitoring.

Previously, the files were kept in paper form and when we monitored for compliance, we had to either travel onsite or the programs had to scan the files (with over 25 required pieces of documentation each) and then send them to us via a secure file sharing system. This was cumbersome, time-consuming and unnecessary.

America Learns offers a robust member file keeping system that makes compliance visits efficient. All programs need to do is click a button and Commission staff instantly have access to each electronic member file.

The contract includes the following services and costs:

Grant e Progress Reports: \$3,750

Financial Reports: \$3,750

Timesheets and Member Files: \$2,625 x 8 programs = \$21,000

Electronic document signing: \$250 x 8 programs = \$2,000

Implementation Consulting and Ongoing Support: Included

This contract will not exceed a total of \$30,500 and is contingent upon receiving the 2025-2026 AmeriCorps formula grant.

The contract also includes unlimited accounts for commission staff, unlimited data storage and access across program years, including archived data from My Service Log, multiple daily data backups, including seven year storage of end-of-the-month backups, and access to all upgrades and new features within the services being used.

McKINNEY VENTO EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH GRANTS

Maureen Tabasko, Director, McKinney Vento Grants

McKinney
Vento
6:45:50

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the rules on waiting a month to vote on a receive item and vote on the McKinney Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth grants immediately. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter voting no.

Chair Hopkins moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the recommendations for funding the 2025-2026 McKinney Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Grants. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of potential litigation/pending litigation/legal matters with legal counsel, which is justified pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client relationship under KOMA, in order to protect the privilege and the Board's communications with an attorney on legal matters. This session will begin at 5:20 p.m. and last 40 minutes; no action will be taken during this session; and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ferguson, Superintendent Luanne Barron, interpreter Kim Braithwaite and Dr. Watson are invited to join this Executive Session. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

After the Executive Session, Chair Hopkins recessed the meeting until the following day at 9:00 a.m.

Exec
Session
7:14:39

WEDNESDAY MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education
August 13, 2025

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All Board members, Dr. Watson and Attorney Ferguson were present.

FEDERAL FUNDS UPDATE

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services

Funds
3:15

For the fourth month, Dr. Harwood presented the situation with federal funds. Overall, the situation is positive. The ESSER funds have been restored and expected to be made available soon. The LETRS training can be restored. There are several Title programs that should have been provided to districts on July 1, but were not made available. The 21st Century grants for before and after-school programs have been released. Districts have been advised to budget as if federal funds will be available but spend as if those funds will not be released.

SEAL OF LITERACY TRAININGS

Foundations Course, Dr. Cynthia Lane, Blueprint for Reading
Phillips Fundamental Learning Center: Alphabetic Phonetics, Jeanine Phillips
R.E.A.D. Redefined, Jane Hayes and Amy Taylor
LETRS, Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Learning/Dyslexia Coordinator, KSDE
Testing Option, explained by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Renee Nugent,
Division of Learning Services

Overview: There are a number of instructional courses that have been given the Seal of Literacy and are available for Kansas teachers. These courses teach the Science of Reading and can be used to attain the necessary designation of Seal of Literacy on their teaching license.

Foundations Course

Dr. Cynthia Lane explained this course is designed to advance professional practice of PK-6 general educators, special educators, ESOL educators, Instructional Coaches, and Reading Specialists. Beginning with a pre-assessment to establish baseline knowledge, there are twelve modules followed by coaching as the educator engages with their students. At the conclusion is a summative assessment which would require 85% correct answers in order to qualify for the Seal of Literacy. The Washburn Pilot has been

Foundations
15:43

successful and there will be seven public universities and four independent colleges offering the course. 35 completers earned the Seal of Literacy in July 2025. There are scholarships and stipends for 1500-2000 licensed and practicing educator.

Phillips Fundamental Learning Center (PFLC): Alphabetic Phonetics

Mrs. Jeanine Phillips shared her personal history with dyslexia and her journey establishing the Learning Center in 2001. Alphabetic Phonics was developed by Aylett Cox and is based on a multisensory, sequential approach for teachers of dyslexic students. Not only has PFLC instructed children but also has empowered parents and educators to tutor children who are dyslexic to read, write and spell. They offer a number of training courses through their Andeel Teacher Literacy Institute.

PFLC
44:40

R.E.A.D. Redefined

Jane Hayes and Amy Taylor have both been classroom teachers and are now teaching structured literacy curricula: Phonology, Sound-Symbol association, Syllable Instruction, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. They offer training to administrators, general education and Tier 1 instructors, in a practical way which applies structured literacy to district provided materials. There are 40 hours of synchronous instruction and 5 hours of demonstration application in the course leading to the Seal of Literacy. In addition they train Reading Specialty Teachers, special ed, reading specialists, Title 1, MTSS, ESOL, Instructional coaches and Tier II and Tier III interventionists. This course includes 80 hours of synchronous instruction and 10 hours of demonstration/application.

R.E.A.D
1:38:12

LETRS

Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Learning/Dyslexia Coordinator, at Kansas State Department of Education, deciphered the word LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. LETRS is a comprehensive SoR professional learning, evidence-based, nationally recognized, common knowledge base/language of instructional practice, IDA accredited program and it is curriculum agnostic. It practices the principles of structured literacy and is explicit and multimodal (systematic, cumulative, data driven and interactive). There are three course options from Lexia: LETRS language essentials for teachers of reading and spelling, LETRS for early childhood educators and LETRS for administrators. Dr. Curtiss described the course components; manual with resources, interactive online learning, bridge to practice and facilitated training.

LETRS
2:11:30

Testing for the Seal of Literacy

Dr. Renee Nugent, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, shared statistics on how many Kansas educators have passed the Elementary Education Teaching Reading Subset. 725 have passed, and 2,730 nationwide Overall, 6,634 Seals of Literacy have been added to licenses.

Testing
2:37:50

Receive National Association of State Boards of Education Dues (NASBE)

The yearly dues for NASBE 2026 are \$28,000. The Board discussed how NASBE has been part of the Kansas Board for many years and that if they decide on membership for 2026, the Board members might try and take advantage of the national perspective offered by this organization. Action will be taken in September.

NASBE
2:58:09

Committee Reports

Mrs. Dombrosky on the KSD Task Force and KNEA negotiations

Mrs. Haas on the Policy Committee

Mr. Hershberger and Mrs. Haas on ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), safe schools and school improvement

Mr. Hershberger on Ag in the Classroom and the State Fair in Hutchinson, Ag Teacher of the Year

Committees
3:14:10

Board Travel Requests:

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests as presented. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Travel
3:25:30

Requests for future items

Mr. Hershberger: Drug overdoses per county, mental health report on Narcan etc., also would like a presentation from Clelia McCrory in September on CTE programming results from health sciences

Mrs. Dombrosky: Would like to reexamine constitutional rights, parents' rights in education

Mr. Porter: Rigor, screentime use of devices from the teacher's point of view, and the districts policies on securing student data

Mrs. Haas: Status of computer science education in Kansas, the regulations for district reorganization, issues about recess in all grade levels of schools, adding Kansas Thespians to the post-secondary asset list

Mrs. Potter: Safe and secure schools, issues around Narcan

Future Items
3:28:00

The Chair adjourned the meeting until the September 9th meeting at 10 a.m.

Cathy Hopkins, Chair

Deborah Bremer, Board Secretary

