



Salina USD 305 Legislative Platform 2018

Education continues to be a major impetus for economic development in communities across Kansas. The stakes are higher because by 2020 we are facing 71% of Kansas jobs requiring some sort of post-secondary education with 35% requiring a certificate or associate degree and 36% requiring a post-secondary degree.*

Kansas needs more students to graduate high school and complete post-secondary education. Adequate funding is essential to raising educational attainment and economic prosperity for both individuals and the state. The Kansas Supreme Court’s Gannon V Kansas ruling is an opportunity to take the next steps. We must reinvest in Kansas K-12 education, redesign schools for student success, increase measurable results for high school completion, post-secondary participation and workforce skills.

**According to KSDE (Achieving the Visions, Powerpoint/Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce).*

Kansans Can Vision

The Kansans Can vision for education is that Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. A successful high school graduate has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills, employability skills and civic engagement to be successful in post-secondary education, in the attainment of an industry-recognized certification, or in the workforce, without the need for remediation. The five outcomes being measured are social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study, high school graduation and post-secondary success.

Reaching this goal is a top priority of USD 305 where budget dollars are being allocated for Kansans Can outcomes. Priorities include social-emotional services, kindergarten readiness, career and tech-ed pathway expansion, and recruitment and retainment of quality teachers and staff. All of the goals can be met only with community relationships, partnerships and engagement.

Recommendations	Rationale
Undertake a comprehensive review of state and local tax policy.	An examination of state and local tax policies resulting in low revenue growth is required. Tax reform that will enhance services for citizens of Kansas, including funding for education is needed.
Oppose any constitutional amendment that would alter Article Six of the Kansas Constitution.	Article Six requires the Kansas Legislature “provide for intellectual, educational, vocational and scientific improvement by establishing and maintaining public schools...” Responsibility needs to remain with the state legislature to “make suitable provision to fund the educational interests of Kansas school districts.” Responsibility for the operation of public schools needs to remain with locally-elected boards of education, as indicated in the Kansas Constitution.
Adjust special education funding to 92 percent of excess costs as required by Kansas statute.	Funding shortfalls from state and federal sources continue to place greater burdens on local school districts. For the Salina school district, that resulted in an assessment increase of over \$1,174,000 during the last three years.

Salina USD 305 Legislative Platform 2018: Recommendations to the Kansas Legislature (continued)

Recommendations	Rationale
Continue to fund state aid in the capital outlay fund.	State aid for capital outlay allows school districts to provide facilities, equipment and furnishings to meet the educational needs of all students. USD 305 urges continued improvement in school finance to eliminate inequities between wealthy and poor districts so that every child in Kansas has equal opportunity for a quality education.
Continue to fund state aid in LOB funds to address the equity issues between districts.	State aid for the LOB fosters equitability among school districts' operating costs.
Mandate sustainability for the existing Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs).	Public sector retirement benefits provide a reliable source of retirement income for government workers, and they help public employers retain qualified personnel to deliver essential public services.
Approve alternate forms of licensure.	Public schools need the tools necessary to attract and retain qualified, effective educators and support staff. Alternate routes to certification that comply with Kansas State Board of Education standards, will help maintain a viable, quality teacher workforce.
Invest in high quality early childhood education.	Increased funding for universal preschool programs, especially for low-income students, including Parents As Teachers, Early Head Start and state funded preschool is recommended. These programs are currently funded by the Children Initiative's Fund (tobacco settlement). These limited resources should not be diverted for other purposes. Further, revenue for early childhood education should be part of the school finance formula for districts that choose to implement high quality preschool programs.
Restore cuts to support state matching funds for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Title II: Adult Education and Literacy.	This critical funding provides opportunity for adults to improve their educational and employment skills. Kansas employers are struggling to fill positions that require training and credentials. Adult education improves the workforce and adds to the earning potential of Kansas residents.
Approve the KanCare expansion in Kansas.	Considering the importance of health care to our community and children, USD 305 supports KanCare expansion in Kansas. By not expanding Medicaid, Kansas has lost more than \$1.5 billion in federal health care funding since January 2014.
Allow schools to collect Medicaid reimbursement for tele-therapy for services such as Speech Language, Physical and Occupational therapies.	There is a tremendous shortage of practitioners in Kansas in speech language pathology, occupational therapy (OT) and physical therapy (PT), and more. As have other cooperatives across Kansas, Central Kansas Cooperative in Education (the Salina special education cooperative), has filled the openings using a different delivery model: online speech services. These services cost more when outsourced and the problem is compounded by the State of Kansas not paying Medicaid reimbursement for speech tele-therapy provided to students. This delivery model has proven to be very effective and engaging to students. USD 305 supports the application of Medicaid funds for tele-therapy services that fill vacancies for Speech, OT and PT.

Salina USD 305 Quick Facts

Mission: The mission of the Salina Public Schools is to ensure that all students learn the skills necessary to participate successfully in the communities in which they live. Completion of this mission is a responsibility of the student, family, community, teachers, and staff in a cooperative partnership.

Vision: Meeting the needs of each student in a culture of excellence.

Strategic Plan:

- Provide in a safe and healthy environment a comprehensive curriculum that leads to each student’s academic achievement and personal growth.
- Develop an organization committed to continuous improvement through innovation and best practice.
- Engage families, businesses and the larger community actively at all levels of the organization.

By the Numbers:

<p><u>K-12 Enrollment</u> 7325</p> <p><u>K-12 Schools</u> 8 Elementary Schools 2 Middle Schools 2 High Schools 1 Alternative School</p>	<p><u>Student Demographics</u></p> <p>3340 Free Lunch Eligible 1531 Special Education 919 Limited English</p> <p>94.9% Attendance Rate 87.8% Graduation Rate</p>	<p><u>724 Certified Teachers</u></p> <p>64% have advanced degrees 65% have 10+ years teaching experience</p>
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Programs Sponsored by Salina USD 305:

<p>Heartland Early Education/Head Start This multi-county program serves children birth through age five and their parents, partnering with other social service agencies to provide support and opportunities. Funding sources include Parents Education Program, Early Head Start/Head Start and State Pre-K.</p>	<p>Central Kansas Cooperative in Education CKCIE is a special education cooperative for 12 school districts providing special education support services to public schools.</p>
<p>Diploma Completion Program DCP offers adult students the chance to complete high school credit to earn a Central or South high school diploma.</p>	<p>Salina Adult Education Center This program provides adult basic education, English as a second language support, GED® preparation and testing as well as college skill building for people 16 or older and out of school. SAEC developed and runs intensive employment courses called Partners 4 Success in collaboration with Salina area agencies and employers.</p>

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