



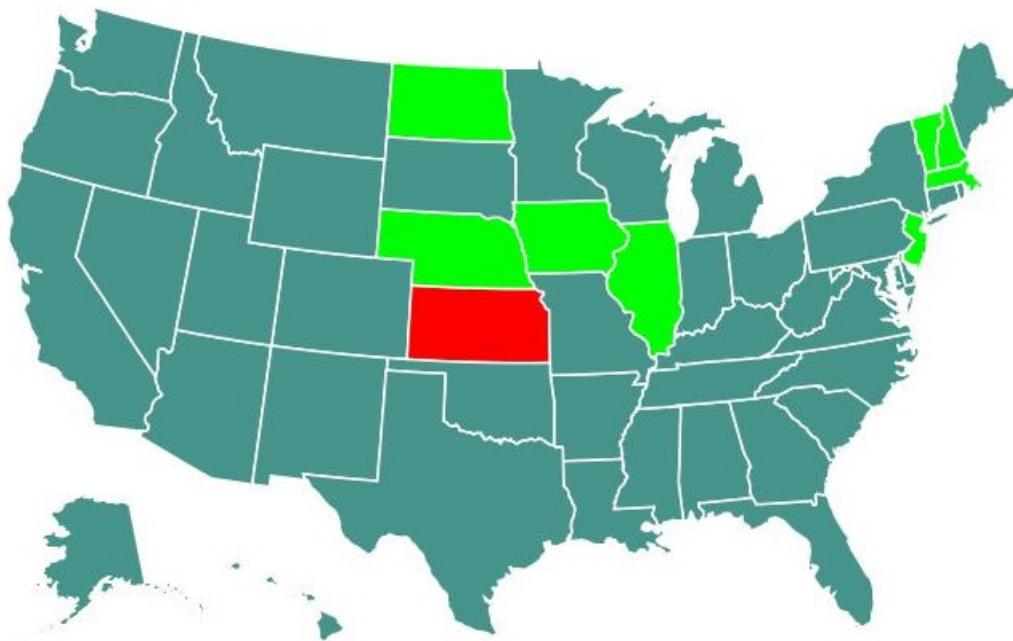
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Serving Educational Leaders, Inspiring Student Success



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State Education Report Card - 2016 Update



Kansas ranks 10th in the nation on 15 measures of educational performance, including 18-24-year-old educational attainment, high school graduation and national assessments.

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Performance and Ranking

The KASB state education report card data provides information related to the Kansas State Board of Education’s Kansans Can outcomes and the “Rose Capacities” identified by the Kansas Supreme Court as a standard of constitutional funding and adopted as educational goals by the Kansas Legislature. It also allows Kansas educational performance, funding and other factors to be compared to other states.

For each state, this report provides education performance information on 15 indicators in the following areas. To provide an overall measure, the factors are weighted.

Indicators	Why it Matters	Weighting
Postsecondary - percent of the 18-24-year-old population with: (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)		33.33%
1. High school completion or higher	<i>Kansans Can Outcomes:</i> High school graduation; Postsecondary Participation <i>Rose Capacities:</i> Academic or vocational skills to enable public school students to compete favorably with their counterparts in surrounding states, in academics or in the job market.	11.11%
2. Some college or higher		11.11%
3. Four-year degree or higher		11.11%
Graduation - Adjusted cohort graduation rate for: (Source: National Center for Education Statistics)		33.33%
4. All students	<i>Kansans Can Outcomes:</i> High school graduation	8.33%
5. Economically disadvantaged students		8.33%
6. Students with limited English proficiency		8.33%
7. Students with disabilities		8.33%
Assessments - National Assessment of Educational Progress 4th and 8th grade reading and math average percent of students scoring at the following benchmark levels: (Source: NAEP)		11.11%
8. Basic or higher for all students	<i>Rose Capacities:</i> Oral and written communication skills to enable students to function in a complex and rapidly changing civilization; Training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields so as to enable each child to choose and pursue life work intelligently	1.85%
9. Basic or higher for low income		1.85%
10. Basic or higher for not low income		1.85%
11. Proficient or higher for all students.		1.85%
12. Proficient or higher for low income		1.85%
13. Basic or higher for not low income		1.85%
Assessments: ACT and SAT Tests, both adjusted for the participation of students based on percent of graduates who took the test in each state: (Sources: ACT, Inc.; College Board)		22.22%
14. Percent of students scoring at the ACT college-ready benchmark level	<i>Rose Capacities:</i> Training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields so as to enable each child to choose and pursue life work intelligently	11.11%
15. Average mean score on the SAT test		11.11%

What's New in 2016

KASB has improved its previous report card of education performance among the states in three ways.

- First, there are changes in the data used. Information on postsecondary attainment by 18-24-year-olds has been added; specifically, the percent of this age group with some college or postsecondary education, including an associate's degree or more; and the percent of this age group with a four-year degree or more. In addition, the Average Freshman Graduation Rate has been deleted, because this measure is no longer used. The report card continues to use the Average Cohort Graduation Rate.
- Second, for the first time, the report compares the most recent data to a previous year to allow comparison over time.
- Third, because there are more indicators within some categories, KASB then weighted each factor so that three major categories would have equal weight, as shown in the table on the previous page.

Comparing Kansas: Aspiration States and Peer States

Key to this report is the ability to compare Kansas to other groups of states.

Aspiration states are defined as states that outperform Kansas when the ranks of all 15 indicators are weighted and averaged. These states have the best overall student outcomes in the nation. If Kansas aspires to improve its performance, these states provide examples of better overall results.

Peer states are those states most like Kansas. The 50 states vary widely in terms of students served, adult population characteristics and other factors influencing student performance and cost. This report identifies the following groups of peer states: those directly adjacent to Kansas; those with most similar students (poverty, English Language proficiency, ethnicity); those with most similar adults (income, education and poverty levels); those with the most similar population distribution (concentration urban areas); and the most similar across all of these factors.

The peer states are further defined and identified on the last page of this report. A complete report on all of these factors for all states is available through KASB research.

Overall Rankings and Funding

Kansas ranks 10th in the nation on 15 measures of educational performance, including 18-24-year-old educational attainment, high school graduation and national assessments. KASB averaged the 15 achievement ranks for each state; then ranked each state by that average. Based on the latest data, Kansas ranked 10th in the nation. Because there are more indicators within some categories, the indicators were weighted to equalize their impacts. Under this system, Kansas also ranked 10th.

KASB identifies those states which rank higher than Kansas as “aspiration states.” Under the weighted ranking (in contrast to the unweighted ranks), Illinois and Connecticut moved ahead of Kansas, and Minnesota and Indiana drop below Kansas. The table below shows the top 20 weighted states.

Overall Outcome Ranks and Aspiration States												
	Un-Weighted		Weighted		Actual Dollars 2014		State Cost Adjusted (RPP)		Funding 2008-14			
	Rank of Average Ranks	Aspiration States	Rank of Average Ranks	Aspiration States	Total Revenue Per Pupil	Total Revenue per Pupil Rank	Total Revenue Per Pupil	Total Revenue per Pupil Rank	Average Funding Per Pupil	Rank of Average Funding	Percent Change in Funding	Rank in Funding Change
New Hampshire	1	X	1	X	\$15,919	11	\$15,132	13	\$14,654	12	19.2	5
Massachusetts	2	X	2	X	\$17,896	7	\$16,710	9	\$16,618	7	15.6	10
New Jersey	4	X	3	X	\$20,531	3	\$17,931	6	\$19,287	2	11.2	19
Iowa	6	X	4	X	\$12,346	24	\$13,673	21	\$11,716	26	13.0	12
Nebraska	5	X	5	X	\$12,773	20	\$14,099	17	\$12,263	21	12.4	16
Vermont	3	X	6	X	\$19,009	6	\$18,783	4	\$17,579	6	16.9	8
Illinois	14		7	X	\$14,756	14	\$14,654	15	\$13,459	15	25.5	2
North Dakota	9	X	8	X	\$14,817	13	\$16,193	10	\$12,986	18	32.4	1
Connecticut	14		9	X	\$20,577	2	\$18,912	3	\$18,374	4	24.0	3
Kansas	10		10		\$11,702	29	\$12,901	25	\$11,619	27	1.7	38
Wisconsin	11		11		\$12,716	21	\$13,615	23	\$12,604	19	5.8	29
Minnesota	7	X	12		\$13,693	18	\$14,030	19	\$13,044	17	12.0	17
Maine	12		13		\$14,604	15	\$15,041	14	\$13,844	14	12.9	13
Missouri	18		14		\$11,382	32	\$12,731	27	\$10,860	34	10.6	21
Kentucky	15		16		\$10,523	38	\$11,864	31	\$10,322	39	5.6	31
Virginia	17		16		\$11,847	28	\$11,546	36	\$11,818	25	0.3	41
Pennsylvania	16		17		\$17,223	8	\$17,538	7	\$15,915	8	17.7	7
Rhode Island	24		18		\$16,948	9	\$17,171	8	\$15,885	9	12.7	14
Indiana	8	X	19		\$12,064	26	\$13,199	24	\$12,016	24	12.7	15
Colorado	22		20		\$10,538	37	\$10,331	41	\$10,322	38	4.8	33

Every state that ranked above Kansas provided more total revenue per pupil than Kansas in 2014, whether in actual dollars or cost of living adjusted dollars under the Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Price Parity index.

Every state that ranked above Kansas in achievement provided more funding on average between 2008 and 2014 (averaging each year’s total revenue per pupil).

Every state that ranked above Kansas also increased total revenue by at least 10 percent between 2008 and 2014, compared to Kansas’ 1.7 percent increase, which means Kansas funding has fallen farther behind the highest achieving states.

State Funding Per Pupil and Budget Choices

Total Funding

In 2014, the most recent year data is available, total K-12 per pupil funding from all sources (state, local and federal) in Kansas was \$11,702, ranking 29th in the nation. (This information from federal reports uses a fall headcount enrollment for each state, which results in a different number than Kansas State Department of Education reports using an adjusted full-time equivalent enrollment.)

Kansas provided nearly \$1,000 less than the U.S. average and nearly \$5,000 less than aspiration states. Kansas also provided about \$1,000 to \$2,000 less than the average of each group of peer states (those most like Kansas), except adjacent states.

Kansas ranks slightly higher (28th) in current spending per pupil, which excludes capital construction and equipment costs and debt payments, and ranked 26th in instructional spending per pupil, which is funding spent exclusively on teachers, paraprofessionals, classroom aides, teacher materials and student activities.

	Actual Dollars				State Cost of Living Adjusted (RPP)				Funding 2008-14							
	Total Revenue Per Pupil	Total Revenue per Pupil Rank	Current Spending Per Pupil	Current Spending Per Pupil Rank	Spending on Instruction	Spending on Instruction Rank	Total Revenue Per Pupil	Total Revenue per Pupil Rank	Current Spending Per Pupil	Current Spending Per Pupil Rank	Spending on Instruction	Spending on Instruction Rank	Average Funding Per Pupil	Rank of Average Funding	Percent Change in Funding	Rank in Funding Change
Kansas	\$11,702	29	\$9,972	28	\$6,112	26	\$12,901	25	\$10,995	26	\$6,739	24	\$11,619	27	1.7	38
United States	\$12,774		\$11,009		\$6,654		\$16,232	10.9	\$14,189	10.6	\$8,663	9.9	\$12,353		6.2	
Aspiration	\$16,514	11.1	\$14,432	11.1	\$8,803	10.1	\$16,232	10.9	\$14,189	10.6	\$8,663	9.9	\$15,215	12.3	18.9	8.4
Adjacent	\$10,924	34.0	\$9,604	33.3	\$5,743	33.3	\$11,788	32.3	\$10,372	32.3	\$6,208	32.3	\$10,596	34.8	6.9	28.0
Overall Peers	\$12,848	24.2	\$11,205	24.0	\$6,668	24.6	\$13,374	24.3	\$11,661	24.2	\$6,947	24.6	\$12,235	24.8	10.3	20.9
Student Peers	\$13,650	21.0	\$12,022	20.6	\$6,972	21.7	\$14,020	21.7	\$12,340	21.0	\$7,160	22.3	\$12,877	22.0	12.8	16.9
Adult Peers	\$12,698	25.2	\$10,998	24.9	\$6,593	25.0	\$13,013	25.7	\$11,277	25.9	\$6,763	25.7	\$12,147	25.3	8.4	23.9
Distribution Peers	\$12,588	26.9	\$10,987	26.3	\$6,489	26.8	\$13,393	25.1	\$11,681	25.0	\$6,904	25.4	\$12,090	27.3	8.4	25.6

It is often pointed out that different states have different costs of living. To examine this issue, KASB adjusted spending by the Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Price Parity Index (RPP). When this adjustment is applied, Kansas's ranking in total revenue per pupil moves up 25th, current spending per pupil to 26th and instructional spending per pupil to 24th. However, adjusted spending per pupil also increases funding for all Kansas peer groups, while aspiration state average spending per pupil drops.

Finally, KASB examined changes in funding per pupil between 2008 and 2014, a six year period reflecting the six years of the 18-24-year-old age group for educational attainment. Kansas average funding over this period was \$11,619, lower than the average of all peer groups except adjacent states.

The percent change in per pupil funding for Kansas between 2008 and 2014 was 1.7 percent, less than one-third of the national average of 6.2 percent, ranking 38th in the nation. Every peer group except adjacent states increased funding by at least three times the increase in Kansas.

Allocation of Revenues

Kansas provides less funding per pupil than most states, but Kansas school districts allocate a higher percentage of dollars to instruction than most states, especially in terms of flexible operating dollars.

	Actual Dollars, 2014								
	Total Revenue Per Pupil	Current Spending Per Pupil	Current Spending as Percent of Total Revenue	Rank	Spending on Instruction	Instructional Spending as Percent of Total	Rank	Instructional Spending As Percent of Current	Rank
Kansas	\$11,702	\$9,972	85.2%	39	\$6,112	52.2%	20	61.3%	12
United States	\$12,774	\$11,009	86.2%		\$6,654	52.1%		60.4%	
Aspiration	\$16,514	\$14,432	87.4%	24.0	\$8,803	53.3%	17.7	61.0%	15.2
Adjacent	\$10,924	\$9,604	87.9%	24.0	\$5,743	52.6%	28.5	59.8%	28.0
Overall Peers	\$12,848	\$11,205	87.2%	20.3	\$6,668	51.9%	20.3	59.5%	23.7
Student Peers	\$13,650	\$12,022	88.1%	23.4	\$6,972	51.1%	29.2	58.0%	32.3
Adult Peers	\$12,698	\$10,998	86.6%	27.1	\$6,593	51.9%	24.5	59.9%	21.6
Distribution Peers	\$12,588	\$10,987	87.3%	25.4	\$6,489	51.5%	27.1	59.1%	28.3

Kansas spends 85.2 percent of total revenues on current operating costs, which means just under 15 percent of Kansas school funding goes to capital costs (buildings and equipment) and paying for debt (mainly bond issues.) Most states (38) spend a higher percentage on current costs.

However, Kansas spends 52.2 percent of all revenue received on instruction, which includes salaries and benefits for teachers, paras and classroom aides, instructional materials and student activities. That ranked 20th in the nation, and was slightly higher than the national average and all peer groups except adjacent states.

Kansas spent 61.3 percent of current operating funds on instruction, ranking 12th. That was higher than the national average and the average for aspiration states and all peer groups.

It should be noted that under the Kansas school finance formula, decisions about capital expenditures are made by local voters through bond elections and capital outlay resolutions, while current operating costs are largely set by the state through state aid appropriations and limits on local option budgets. Therefore, school districts could not legally choose to shift most capital expenditures to operating expenditures even if that was a higher priority.

Teacher Salaries and Pupil Teacher Ratios

In 2014, the average teacher salary in Kansas was \$48,221, ranking 41st in the nation, compared to \$45,136 in 2008. Kansas had a 6.8 percent increase, ranking 34th in the nation. (Note that Kansas funding per pupil increased just 1.7 percent over this period, ranking 38th in the nation.)

	Average Teacher Salary				Increase in Salary 2008-14		Pupil Teacher Ratio			
	2008	Rank	2014	Rank	Percent	Rank	2008	Rank	2014	Rank
Kansas	\$45,136	37	\$48,221	41	6.8%	34	13.1	40	13.0	43
United States	\$52,308		\$56,689		8.4%		15.3		16.1	
Aspiration	\$52,025	21.8	\$59,454	17.3	14.6%	14.4	12.7	40.2	12.9	41.6
Adjacent	\$44,223	38.3	\$48,201	37.8	9.1%	26.0	14.4	29.5	15.3	25.3
Overall Peers	\$49,542	26.3	\$54,685	23.9	10.6%	22.4	15.4	21.7	15.8	22.6
Student Peers	\$52,247	18.2	\$57,139	19.6	9.4%	26.2	15.7	21.1	16.5	21.0
Adult Peers	\$49,606	25.3	\$54,674	22.9	10.6%	23.1	15.8	22.3	16.3	23.1
Distribution Peers	\$46,497	31.4	\$51,791	28.8	11.3%	21.3	14.7	26.6	15.5	25.9

Kansas has lower teacher salaries than the U.S. average, aspiration states and all peer groups except adjacent states. Between 2008 and 2014, adjacent states had nearly caught up with Kansas.

Kansas has among the lowest pupil teacher ratios in the nation. (A high rank means a low PTR, in other words, fewer pupils per teacher and generally smaller classes.) Only seven states have a lower PTR than Kansas.

Aspiration states have a slightly slower PTR than Kansas. In other words, the states with the best educational outcomes provide more funding than Kansas or any peer groups; increase funding more than Kansas or any peer group; pay teachers more than Kansas or any peer group; raise teacher pay more than Kansas or any peer group, and have lower pupil teacher ratios than Kansas or any peer group.

Demographic Comparison: Kansas to Aspiration States

It is important to consider the fact that the aspiration states, taken as a group, have demographic characteristics very different than Kansas. Based on the most recently available data, compared to the aspiration states as defined by KASB, Kansas has:

- More children from groups that historically have had lower educational attainments: students in poverty, eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, with disabilities, English Language Learners and non-white students.
- Lower median household income; fewer adults age 25 and up with at least a high school diploma, a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree, and more adults below the poverty level.
- Fewer persons per square mile and less of its population in urbanized areas.
- Kansas schools are also different, with more students per staff member and per administrator, and fewer students per teacher, per school and per district.

For more details, see KASB's 2016 Report Card Supplemental Details.

Close Up: Educational Attainment by 18-24-year-olds

Key Facts:

In 2014, 87.3 percent of Kansas adults under age 25 had graduated from high school. This makes Kansas 18th in the nation in terms of high school graduation rates. According to KSDE, an estimated 90 percent of jobs will require *at least* a high school diploma by 2020.

Just over 60 percent of young adult Kansans had some college or postsecondary education. This means they may have attended but did not yet complete a degree or certificate, or they earned a technical certification, an associate's degree, or a higher degree. Kansas ranked 7th in the nation on this measure. An estimated 71 percent of Kansas jobs in 2020 will require some postsecondary education.

Just over 10 percent of young adult Kansans had completed a four-year degree or higher - 16th in the nation. An estimated 36 percent of Kansas jobs in 2020 will require some postsecondary education. (Note that only about one-third of Kansas in this six year age group could have completed a four-year degree in four years, so 10.1 percent is approximately 30 percent of those eligible.)

18-24-Year-Old Educational Attainment Status Detail								
	High school graduate and higher 2014		Some college or higher 2014		Bachelor's degree or higher 2014		Average of Ranks	Rank of Average Ranks
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank		
Kansas	87.3	18	60.1	7	10.3	19	14.7	16
United States	86.1	-	55.9		10.1			
Aspiration	89.0	8.6	60.8	7.7	13.0	8.2	8.1	7
Adjacent	86.7	22.3	57.2	19.8	9.6	23.0	21.7	22
Overall Peers	86.6	23.9	56.2	23.0	9.3	24.9	23.9	25
Student Peers	86.8	24.4	55.9	23.8	9.7	22.9	23.7	24
Adult Peers	86.8	23.8	55.9	23.9	9.3	25.1	24.3	24
Distribution Peers	86.7	23.4	56.0	24.6	8.6	29.4	25.8	26

Kansas exceeds the national average in high school completion by 1.2 percent and all peer groups by approximately 0.5 percent. Kansas also exceeds the national average and all peer groups in some college completion by approximately 3-4 percent. Kansas exceeds the national average in four-year or higher college completion by 0.2 percent; and peer groups by 0.5 to 1.0 percent.

Comparatively, Kansas does better at postsecondary attainment than peer states in high school completion, although it exceeds the nation in both postsecondary and high school completion.

Kansas trails the best performing states by 1.7 percent in high school completion, by 0.5 percent in some college or postsecondary completion, and 2.7 percent in four-year completion.

Postsecondary Trends for 18-24-year-olds:

From 2005 to 2014, Kansas high school completion by young adults increased 3 percent, well below the national average of 5.7 percent, ranking Kansas 45th. The rate for all peer groups increased between 4.8 percent and 5.7 percent, while aspiration states increased 4.7 percent.

For some college postsecondary, Kansas increased 8.2 percent, compared to a national average of 9.5 percent, ranking 31st. Peer states increased between 8.7 percent and 9.1 percent, and neighboring states increased 10.1 percent. Highest performing states increased 9.2 percent, slightly below the national average.

In four-year or higher college completion, Kansas increased 0.6 percent, compared to a national average of 0.8 percent, ranking Kansas 25th in growth. Most peer states increased slightly more than Kansas.

	High school graduate and higher				Some college or higher				Bachelor's degree or higher			
	2005	2014	9 Year Change	Change Rank	2005	2014	9 Year Change	Change Rank	2005	2014	9-Year Change	Change Rank
Kansas	84.3	87.3	3.0	45	51.9	60.1	8.2	31	9.7	10.3	0.6	25
United States	80.4	86.1	5.7		46.4	55.9	9.5		9.3	10.1	0.8	
Aspiration	84.3	89.0	4.7	29.2	51.5	60.8	9.2	25.0	12.0	13.0	1.0	18.8
Adjacent	81.1	86.7	5.6	22.0	47.1	57.2	10.1	19.8	9.1	9.6	0.5	23.3
Overall Peers	81.5	86.6	5.1	27.3	47.5	56.2	8.7	28.9	8.6	9.3	0.7	22.4
Student Peers	81.1	86.8	5.7	22.4	46.9	55.9	9.1	26.0	9.0	9.7	0.7	21.0
Adult Peers	82.0	86.8	4.8	27.2	47.6	55.9	8.3	30.0	9.0	9.3	0.2	26.0
Distribution Peers	81.6	86.7	5.1	26.0	46.8	56.0	9.3	24.8	7.9	8.6	0.7	22.7

Conclusions

Kansas must continue to improve educational levels to meet employment and economic needs. By 2010, studies say 90 percent of Kansas jobs will require a high school diploma and 71 percent some level of postsecondary education; with about 35 percent requiring a four-year degree or higher.

Kansas continues to rank above the national average and most similar states in educational achievement by young adults, but most states are improving faster.

Kansas does particularly well in getting students into college (top 10) and completing a four-year degree or higher (top 20), but is falling behind in high school completion - the first step toward postsecondary completion. That could be a warning sign for the future.

Close Up: High School Graduation (Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate)

Key Facts

Kansas had an “on time” graduation rate (using the adjusted cohort graduation rate) for all students of 85.7 percent, but some groups of students graduate at rates about 10 percent lower: 76.9 percent for economically disadvantaged groups (free and reduced price lunch eligible); 75.0 percent for Limited English Proficiency students and 76.7 percent for students with disabilities.

The Kansas on-time graduation rate of 85.7 percent is about 2 percent lower than the percentage of 18-24-year-olds completing high school, which means either about 2 percent of students go on to complete high school within the five to six years of their graduating age cohort, or the net change of persons with or without a high school diploma moving into and out of the state resulted in the change.

Kansas ranks 21st in adjusted cohort graduation rate for all students, exceeding the national average by 3.4 percent and peer states by approximately 4 percent. Adjacent states are 1.4 percent below Kansas, and aspiration states are 2.2 percent higher.

Kansas ranks 22nd in graduation for low income students; 3-4 percent better than peer states and 1.3 percent below aspiration states. Kansas ranks sixth for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students, 12-15 percent higher than peer states and almost 5 percent higher than aspiration states. Kansas ranks fourth for students with disabilities; 12-13 percent higher than peer states and about 5 percent higher than aspiration states.

	Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates 2014							
	All Students		Economically Disadvantaged		Limited English Proficiency		Students with Disabilities	
	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank
Kansas	85.7	21	76.9	22	75.0	6	76.7	4
United States	82.3		74.6		62.6		63.1	
Aspiration	87.9	9.2	78.2	16.8	68.9	19.1	71.5	13.4
Adjacent	84.3	20.3	76.3	18.8	60.4	32.0	69.8	15.5
Overall Peers	81.2	27.1	71.5	29.6	62.3	26.4	62.3	26.9
Student Peers	81.1	27.9	71.9	28.3	62.4	24.8	62.6	26.8
Adult Peers	82.0	27.3	72.9	27.4	63.0	25.5	62.2	26.9
Distribution Peers	81.8	24.7	72.3	27.7	62.0	26.9	64.2	24.2

Graduation Trends

Since 2011, when all states began using the adjusted cohort graduation rate measure, Kansas increased 2.7 percent for all students, 3.9 percent for economically disadvantaged students, 5.0 percent for LEP students, and 3.7 percent for students with disabilities.

Kansas' rate of increase has been around the national average, ranking 28th for all students, 28th for low income students, 19th for LEP students and 24th for students with disabilities.

However, all peer groups had higher rates of increase for all students and low income students (except for distribution peers in low income students). Kansas had a higher growth for LEP students than any peer group except adjacent states, but trailed the national average. For students with disabilities, Kansas grew less than the national average, student, adult and distribution peers, but exceeded growth for aspiration states and overall peers.

	Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate															
	All Students				Economically Disadvantaged				Limited English Proficiency				Students with Disabilities			
	2011	2014	3-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2014	3-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2014	3-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2014	3-Year Change	Rank of Change
Kansas	83.0	85.7	2.7	28	73.0	76.9	3.9	28	70.0	75.0	5.0	19	73.0	76.7	3.7	24
United States	79.0	82.3	3.3		70.0	74.6	4.6		57.0	62.6	5.6		59.0	63.1	4.1	
Aspiration	85.1	87.9	2.8	28.7	73.3	78.2	4.9	22.3	65.4	68.9	3.5	23.0	68.0	71.5	3.5	27.0
Adjacent	80.3	84.3	4.4	16.7	71.7	76.3	4.0	27.0	55.7	60.4	5.2	20.0	64.0	69.8	3.3	29.0
Overall Peers	78.3	81.2	3.2	25.2	67.5	71.5	3.9	26.4	58.0	62.3	3.3	25.6	59.2	62.3	3.3	27.3
Student Peers	77.3	81.1	3.7	22.3	67.9	71.9	4.0	28.0	60.6	62.4	1.9	28.2	58.3	62.6	4.2	24.7
Adult Peers	78.4	82.0	4.0	22.1	68.9	72.9	4.1	26.6	58.4	63.0	3.8	24.6	58.4	62.2	4.0	25.2
Distribution Peers	78.8	81.8	2.8	27.1	67.7	72.3	3.1	28.0	57.6	62.0	3.1	25.7	59.0	64.2	3.9	24.6

Conclusions

To reach a higher target for on-time graduation, Kansas will have to significantly raise rates for low income students (who account for close to 50 percent of the Kansas student population), LEP students (9 percent of Kansas students), and disabled students (14 percent).

Kansas has significantly better graduation rates than the most similar states, and does especially well with LEP and students with disabilities.

Kansas graduation rates have generally been rising at a slower pace than the national average and peer states, which means the rest of the nation is slowly catching up.

Close Up: Fourth and Eighth Grade Reading and Math Tests (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

Key Facts

In 2015, 76 percent of the sample of Kansas students tested scored at the basic level or higher, averaging the four tests, with 65 percent of low income students at basic and 88 percent of non-low income students. This ranked Kansas 20th, 17th and 10th, respectively.

In 2015, 36 percent of Kansas students scored at the proficient level or higher, with 22 percent of low income students and 51 percent of non-low income students scoring at this level. This ranked Kansas 22nd, 18th and 20th, respectively.

Kansas was almost 4 percent below the aspiration states for all students at basic or higher; and 1 percent below aspiration states for both low income and non-low income students. Kansas was over 6 percent below aspirations states for all students at proficient or higher; 1.7 percent below for aspiration states for low income and 2.9 percent for non-low income at proficient.

Kansas did better than all peer groups except adjacent states for all students at the basic level or higher; and all peer groups for low income and non-low income students at basic. Kansas was equal or higher than all peer groups except overall and distribution peers for all students at proficient; higher than all peer groups except distribution peers for low income at proficient and higher than all peer groups for non-low income students at proficient.

	Percent at Basic or Higher, 2015						Percent at Proficient or Higher, 2015					
	All Students		NSLP Eligible (Low Income)		NSLP Ineligible (Not Low Income)		All Students		NSLP Eligible (Low Income)		NSLP Ineligible (Not Low Income)	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Kansas	76	20	65	17	88	10	36	22	22	18	51	20
United States	74		63		78		35		21		40	
Aspiration	79.9	8.33	66	15.3	89	9.111	42.1	9.56	23.7	16.3	53.9	12.8
Adjacent	76.3	19.5	64.8	18.5	87.5	16	36	23.8	21.5	24	50.5	20.5
Overall Peers	74.9	22.6	62.6	26.5	86.5	20.79	36.4	21.9	21.5	22.6	49.9	22.9
Student Peers	73.7	29	61.6	31.2	86.2	23.89	35	26.7	20.6	28.3	49.4	25
Adult Peers	75.2	23.4	63.4	23.7	86.2	22.73	36	23.6	21.7	21.9	49.3	25.2
Distribution Peers	75.8	19.3	64.4	19.4	86.5	21.57	36.1	22.4	22.3	19.4	48.7	26.7

NAEP Trends

Over the past eight years, the percent of Kansas students scoring at the basic and proficient benchmarks have generally declined, while peer states and the U.S. average have generally improved.

For all students at basic, Kansas dropped 5 percent, while the U.S. average rose 2 percent and most peer states were unchanged or increased 1 percent. For low income students at basic, Kansas dropped 3 percent, while the U.S. average rose 5 percent and peer states rose 2 percent to 4 percent. For non-low income students, Kansas dropped 1 percent, while the national average dropped 5 percent and most peer states rose 2 percent to 4 percent.

For all students scoring at proficient, Kansas dropped 5 percent, while the U.S. and most peer states rose 2 percent. For low income students at proficient, Kansas dropped 2 percent while the U.S. average rose 4 percent and peer states increased 2 percent to 3 percent. For non-low income students, Kansas was unchanged, the U.S. average dropped 5 percent; peer states rose 6 percent to 8 percent.

Aspiration states generally increased at lower rates than the U.S. average and Kansas' peer states, suggesting it may be more difficult to increase performance when school systems are already at relatively high levels.

	Percent at Basic											
	All Students				NSLP Eligible (Low Income)				NSLP Ineligible (Not Low Income)			
	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank
Kansas	81	76	-5	50	68	65	-3	47	89	88	-1	45
United States	72	74	2		58	63	5		83	78	-5	
Aspiration	79.8	79.9	0	26.8	64	66	2	26.2	87	89	2	27.6
Adjacent	74.3	76.3	2	16.5	61	64.8	4	20.8	84	87.5	4	18.3
Overall Peers	74.8	74.9	0	25.6	60	62.6	2	26.1	84	86.5	3	24.6
Student Peers	72.8	73.7	1	21.6	57	61.6	4	19.8	83	86.2	3	19.7
Adult Peers	74.3	75.2	1	23.5	60	63.4	3	23.9	83	86.2	3	20.9
Distribution Peers	75.4	75.8	0	24.8	63	64.4	2	27.9	84	86.5	2	25.4

	Percent at Proficient											
	All Students				NSLP Eligible (Low Income)				NSLP Ineligible (Not Low Income)			
	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank	2007	2015	Change 2007-2015	Change Rank
Kansas	41	36	-5	50	24	22	-2	49	51	51	0	20
United States	33	35	2		17	21	4		45	40	-5	
Aspiration	40	42.1	2	25.7	21	23.7	3	23.2	49	53.9	5	12.8
Adjacent	33	36	3	17.5	19	21.5	3	24.3	43	50.5	8	20.5
Overall Peers	35	36.4	2	25.9	19	21.5	2	27.1	44	49.9	6	22.9
Student Peers	33	35	2	22.9	17	20.6	3	22.6	43	49.4	6	25
Adult Peers	34	36	2	22.1	19	21.7	3	24.4	43	49.3	7	25.2
Distribution Peers	34	36.1	2	23.4	20	22.3	2	28.7	43	48.7	6	26.7

Conclusions

In most states, the percentage of students scoring at basic in fourth and eighth grade is an indicator of high school completion, with cohort graduation rates generally about 10 percent higher. For example, in 2007, most states had scores in the low- to mid-70 percent range, and seven years later, adjusted cohort graduation rates were in the low 80 percent range.

Likewise in 2007, approximately 33 percent of all students tested in most states scored at proficient, and in 2015, roughly 30 percent of students scored at the “college ready” benchmark on all four of the ACT subjects assessed (English, math, reading and science). Note, however, that NAEP tests a small sample of students, while in many states between 50 percent and 100 percent of students take the ACT. (KASB used 2007 NAEP scores to include students who would be taking the ACT in 2015.)

In Kansas, as in all states, there are large differences (usually about 20 percent) between lower-income and higher-income student groups, indicating that raising overall high school completion and postsecondary attainment will require greater support of low income students.

It should be noted Kansas performance continues to be higher than or equal to the national average and peer students, but it is declining in many areas. In other words, Kansas has gone from significantly ahead of most states to slightly ahead or equal to most states.

However, to the extent that fourth and eighth grade NAEP scores are accurate predictors of graduation rates and college participation, Kansas could expect further declines in national achievement rankings if corrective action is not taken.

Close Up: College Preparation - ACT and SAT Tests

Key Facts

In 2015, 74 percent of Kansas graduates took the ACT test and 32 percent scored at the “college ready” benchmark on all four subjects (English, math, reading and science). Nationally, 59 percent of students and tested and 28 percent met all four benchmarks. In most cases, a higher level of participation results in a lower percentage of students meeting benchmarks, but Kansas students defy this trend.

ACT and SAT College Tests Status						
	ACT 2015			SAT 2015		
	Percent Meeting All Four Benchmarks	Percent of Graduates Tested	Percent Meeting All Four Benchmarks Adjusted Rank	Mean Score - Combined	Percent of Graduates Tested	Mean Score - Combined Rank Adjusted
Kansas	32	74	12	1748	5	16
United States	28	59		1593.0	50	
Aspiration	38.7	55.1	9.8	1645.4	44.2	7.6
Adjacent	26.8	86.3	17.8	1740.3	6.8	17.5
Overall Peers	31.6	64.0	21.6	1656.8	27.2	20.7
Student Peers	30.4	62.7	25.2	1648.2	28.8	22.6
Adult Peers	32.1	57.9	24.2	1575.7	47.7	22.7
Distribution Peers	28.9	73.5	22.1	1685.3	18.1	21.8

A higher percentage of Kansas students met the benchmarks than any peer group (overall peers were nearly the same), and Kansas tested more students than any peer group except adjacent states (distribution peers were nearly the same).

Aspiration states had a higher percent of students at benchmarks (38.7 percent compared to 32 percent in Kansas), but tested a much lower percentage of students (55.1 percent compared to 74 percent.)

Kansas had a mean SAT score of 1748, almost 250 points ahead of the national average, but tested only 5 percent of students, compared to 50 percent nationally. As with ACT results, SAT state scores are closely correlated with the percentage of students tested. For example, a state testing only 25 percent of students, who are likely to among the most talented and motivated students, will usually do much better than a state testing 75 percent of students, which by definition will include many students in the bottom half of their class.

To address the differences in the percentage of students tested, KASB prepared an adjusted ranking for both ACT and SAT, which compares how each state actually performed with its projected performance based on the percentage of students who took the test. On this adjusted ranking, Kansas was 12th on the ACT and 16th on the SAT.

Trends in ACT/SAT

The percentage of Kansas students who took the ACT and met all four benchmarks increased 7 percent since 2006 (the first year benchmarks were used), the same as the national average. Kansas increased more than all peer states except adult peers.

However, the percentage of Kansas students tested dropped one point, while the U.S. average of students taking the ACT rose 19 percent and peer groups increased between 6.8 percent and 16.5 percent.

	ACT											
	Percent Tested At All 4 College Ready Benchmarks				Percent of Graduates Tested				Percent at Benchmarks Rank Adjusted for Participation			
	2006	2015	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2015	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2015	Change in Adjusted Rank	Change Rank
Kansas	25	32	7	21	75	74	-1	49	11	12	-1	30
United States	21	28	7		40	59	19		14.0	9.8	4.2	19.3
Aspiration	26.8	38.7	11.9	17.1	42.8	55.1	12.3	28.0	21.5	17.8	3.8	21.3
Adjacent	21.5	26.8	5.3	28.0	79.5	86.3	6.8	37.3	15.1	21.6	-6.5	33.8
Overall Peers	25.4	31.6	6.2	26.4	54.8	64.0	9.2	32.4	18.2	25.2	-7.0	31.1
Student Peers	24.9	30.4	5.6	28.4	49.0	62.7	13.7	27.9	21.3	24.2	-2.9	27.4
Adult Peers	24.7	32.1	7.5	24.1	41.4	57.9	16.5	26.5	18.1	22.1	-3.9	30.8
Distribution Peers	23.9	28.9	5.0	29.6	62.5	73.5	11.0	29.6				

Kansas' adjusted ranking for the percent of students meeting all four benchmarks on the ACT dropped one point over the past nine years.

The mean score for Kansas students on the SAT rose 10 points between 2006 and 2015, compared to a national mean score increase of 75 points. However, the mean score of aspiration states was unchanged and every comparison group except adjacent states declined.

Kansas participation dropped 3 percent, from 8 percent to 5 percent, while the national average rose 2 percent, from 48 percent to 50 percent. SAT participation in aspiration and adjacent states also dropped, but increased in each peer group except students peers, which dropped slightly. Kansas SAT adjusted rank for mean score dropped from 13th to 16th.

	SAT											
	Mean Score Combined				Percent of Graduates Tested				Mean Score Rank Adjusted for Participation			
	2006	2015	2006-2015 Change Change Rank		2006	2015	2006-2015 Change Change Rank		2006	2015	Change in Adjusted Rank Change Rank	
Kansas	1,738	1,748	10	16	8	5	-3	31	13	16	-3	35
United States	1,518	1,593	75		48	50	2					
Aspiration	1,645.8	1,645	0	21.1	47.1	44.2	-2.9	28.6	7.4	7.6	0	23.2
Adjacent	1,717.0	1,740	23	13.3	11.8	6.8	-5.0	33.8	16.5	17.5	-1	24.5
Overall Peers	1,676.8	1,657	-20	25.0	23.1	27.2	4.1	25.2	19.0	20.7	-2	28.1
Student Peers	1,651.7	1,648	-3	23.3	29.6	28.8	-0.8	25.3	20.0	22.6	-3	29.4
Adult Peers	1,601.9	1,576	-26	25.4	39.4	47.7	8.3	20.4	25.3	22.7	3	19.4
Distribution Peers	1,698.9	1,685	-14	24.3	14.9	18.1	3.2	26.6	20.7	21.8	-1	28.7

Conclusions

Kansas has increased the percentage of students meeting college ready benchmarks on its main assessment of college readiness, the ACT, at about the same rate as the nation and peer states. However, Kansas participation has been basically flat, while other states have generally increased participation.

Participation in these tests has been influenced in part by policies in some states that require all students to take the ACT. These policies also skew data on changes in achievement, because higher participation generally results in lower average results than lower participation.

These trends are reflected in postsecondary participation and completion by 18-24-year-olds, where Kansas continues to have a higher percentage of students enrolled or completing postsecondary education than most states, but other states have been improving at a slightly faster pace.

Appendix: Comparing Kansas: Aspiration States and Peer States

Data is provided for each state, plus the United States average where available, and average amounts for each of the following comparison groups:

Aspiration: States that perform better overall than Kansas. Calculated using a ranking of weighted average ranks on the Postsecondary, High School Graduation, and Assessment measure ranks.

- States are Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Vermont

Adjacent: States that share a border with Kansas.

- States are Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma

Student Peers: States that are within +/- .5 standard deviations of Kansas's value on a majority of these variables: Children In Poverty, Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch, Students Ages three-21 Served Under IDEA, Students in ELL Programs, White Students.

- States are Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, Wisconsin

Adult Peers: States that are within +/- .5 standard deviations of Kansas's value on a majority of these variables: Median Household Income, 25-Year-Olds and Older with at Least a High School Diploma, with at least a bachelor's degree, or an advanced degree; Income Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months.

- States are Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

Distribution Peers: States that are within +/- .5 standard deviations of Kansas's value on a majority of these variables: Population Per Square Mile, Percent of Total Population in Urbanized Areas, Percent of Total Population in Urban Clusters, Percent of Total Population in Urban Areas, Population Per Square Mile - Urbanized Areas, Population Per Square Mile - Urban Clusters, Population Per Square Mile - Urban Areas.

- States are Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Overall Peers: States that are within +/- .5 standard deviations of Kansas's value on a majority of the variables used in student, population and distribution peers.

- States are Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico

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