

Jennifer Gatz
Assistant Superintendent
Board Report October 2020

PreAct 8/9 Assessment

As part of the Kansas Can vision, the Pre-ACT 8/9 has been added to the state testing protocols. This is the second year that our freshmen students have the opportunity to take this assessment. Axtell completed this assessment on October 7th, Wetmore on October 8th, and Sabetha High School will be taking this assessment on October 13th. All schools will have a make-up date for students that are absent. You can learn more about the Pre- ACT 8/9 at this website:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/preact-8-9.html> . We will be utilizing this assessment data as a tool to enhance instruction and measure student growth so our goal is to test as many of our students as possible.

The ACT and WorkKeys

On October 20th we have one Sabetha High School senior that will be taking the make-up ACT exam that was not able to test last spring. The ACT will once again be offered to all juniors for free. The state testing date for this free opportunity for the ACT is February 23rd and for WorkKeys is February 24th. The make-ups are March 9th and 10th respectively. In order to help our students prepare for the ACT assessment Carolyn Devane from PowerPrep will be doing a 3 hour Zoom presentation to our juniors taking the assessment during the Career Symposium on November 16th. She will complete her session the following Monday, November 23th from 8:15-11:15. We are excited to provide our students with this opportunity for ACT test preparation.

MTSS Update

During our PLC on September 14th our collaborative teams analyzed the FastBridge screening data to determine which students had a need for additional support in the areas of math and reading. This additional support is provided through our MTSS process. Our data this year has shown an increase in the number of students that show a need for additional intervention support. Many grade levels are working on in-class supports for students as well as providing MTSS services. Due to COVID-19 some of our buildings have made some adjustments in our grouping practices in order to try and limit exposure and maintain smaller cohort groups.

During the PLC, each building also worked on items related to their building action plans for the Kansas Educational System Accreditation (KESA) process. The screening window for Social, Academic and Emotional Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRs) and MySAEBRs assessments open October 5th and has been extended to October 22nd. These assessments provide us information related to the state board goal of measuring social-emotional growth. We also utilize these screeners along with course grades, attendance and office discipline referrals to identify students that may need additional support in the areas of behavior, and social emotional concerns. This data is will be analyzed at the building level during our November 2nd PLC and at our District Leadership Team Meeting on November 11th. We are also utilizing the Kansas Communities that Cares data to measure social emotional growth and we will be looking at this data on those dates as well.

USDA Distance Learning and Telemed (DLT) Grant

I am excited to announce that we were recently informed that our district has received a grant through a partnership with the K-State College of Education as part of the USDA Distance Learning and Tele-med (DLT) grant for rural communities. The grant creators worked with Stacy Smith at KSDE to focus on CTE programming. The grant will provide each high school in our district a Double Telepresence Robot . These are mobile and can be controlled off site. The goal of using

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these robots is to offer CTE experiences (e.g., shared district coursework, facility tours, industry guest speakers, etc.) and curriculum for students, as well as college and career advising opportunities. It is my understanding that we will also receive training on how to use the robots for STEM experiences and learn about curriculum available. Once we receive these robots we will be able to utilize them as we see fit but the examples they provided in the grant include utilizing them to deliver professional development, teach students who are unable to be in class, or for a teacher that might be teaching off site. They can also be used for outreach and tele-med by others in your community. The Rural Education Center at K-State is facilitating the distribution of the robots and the initial professional development. There is no cost to our district to participate in this grant opportunity and receive these devices. We are excited to continue to learn more about how we may utilize this new technology in the near future.

To learn more check out the following press releases: [WIBW Announcement](#) [K-State Grant Announcement](#)

Outside Visitation Team and District Leadership Team Meeting

Our District Leadership Team (DLT) met on September 23rd. At this meeting we began looking at our FastBridge data and discussed year five of our KESA Accreditation process. We met via Zoom with our Outside Visitation Team (OVT) to make sure that we were aware of the work we needed to do to prepare for our accreditation review which will happen in the spring of 2021. Although the Kansas State Department of Education has stated that schools can pause their accreditation work this fall, as a team we decided to continue moving forward with our accreditation process. Our spring OVT meeting is scheduled for February 22nd. The Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) will meet this spring and that is when they will review our data to determine or accreditation status.

Family Engagement Survey

Family engagement is a component of both our MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support), KESA (Kansas Education System Accreditation) and Title I processes. As we have in the past we will be asking parents to complete a family engagement survey during our fall parent teacher conferences. These surveys will be sent out electronically to our families and our leadership teams analyze this data as part of our KESA process.