

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Terry McEwen, director, assessment, research & accountability
Re: 2017-18 Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) Results
Date: October 8, 2018

Background:

Board Goal 1: *Develop and align district expectations for curriculum, instruction and assessment to raise the achievement of all students.*

In school year 2017-18, Kansas administered state assessments in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics to Grades 3-8 and at Grade 10. In addition, the science assessment was administered to Grades 5, 8, and 11. A History/Government/Social Studies Assessment was administered to Grades 6, 8, and 11 as part of an “every-other-year” cycle; however, that assessment will no longer exist in its current form, having been retired at the end of the 2018 school year.

Kansas Assessment Program Information:

English Language Arts (ELA):

The ELA assessment contained test items focused on Informational Text, Literary Text, and Writing (revising, editing, and vocabulary/language use – the assessment no longer contains student-produced writing). In addition, the assessment asked questions about Making and Supporting Conclusions and Main Idea.

Mathematics:

The Mathematics assessment included a written performance task that asked students to analyze a response or justify their answer to an authentic application of mathematics. This assessment focuses on Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Numbers and Operations, Measurement and Data, and Geometry.

Science:

The Science assessment focuses on the broad areas of Physical Science (including Structure and Properties of Matter, Energy, Chemical Reactions, and Forces and Interactions); Life Science (Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems); Earth and Space Science (Earth Systems and Space Systems).

History/Government/Social Studies (HGSS):

The HGSS assessment focused on Ancient World History (Grade 6); US History – American Revolution to International Expansion (Grade 8); and US History – International Expansion to the Present; Modern World History; US Government; and Economics (Grade 11). No scale scores are available for HGSS as the assessment was retired at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Kansas Assessment Program Logistics:

This computerized test employed technology-enhanced items that required students to do more than pick the right answer from a list. For example, students were required to order items, create categories, label areas, plot graphs and select multiple responses.

The completed assessments underwent multiple educator reviews to establish cut scores and performance levels in 2015. The performance levels will be listed as follows: Level 1 (performance is below grade level expectations), Level 2 (the student is at grade level but not yet on track for college or career readiness), Level 3 (the student is at grade level and on track for college or career readiness), and Level 4 (the student exceeds grade level expectations and is on track for college or career readiness).

Report:

This report will portray the scores for “All” students and our identified “Sub-groups”: Free/Reduced Lunch; English Language Learners; Students with Disabilities; and all Racial/Ethnic Groups. The report will portray scoring within grade-level bands (3-5; 6-8; and 10) in order to ensure a viable number in each reportable sub-group. Scores for ELA and Mathematics will be portrayed for Grades 3-8 and 10; Science scores will be portrayed for Grades 5, 8, and 11; and History/Government Social Studies scores will be portrayed for Grades 6, 8, and 11.

It is important to note that the four levels of performance have been designed to represent a learning continuum. While a student may be performing at a Level 1 or a Level 2 in one year, this does not in any way suggest that the student could not increase their performance. It is highly likely that in a subsequent year, a student scoring a 1 or 2 could move up one or two levels.

The Performance Levels (1, 2, 3 or 4) are based on a set of scale scores with cutoff scores to determine the levels. The Scale Scores (“Cut Scores”) will be included with the data presentation.

Additionally, this report will discuss implications for curriculum and building principals, how curricula are responding to the assessment results, what we forecast ahead, and how this will tie in with KESA and SIP plans.