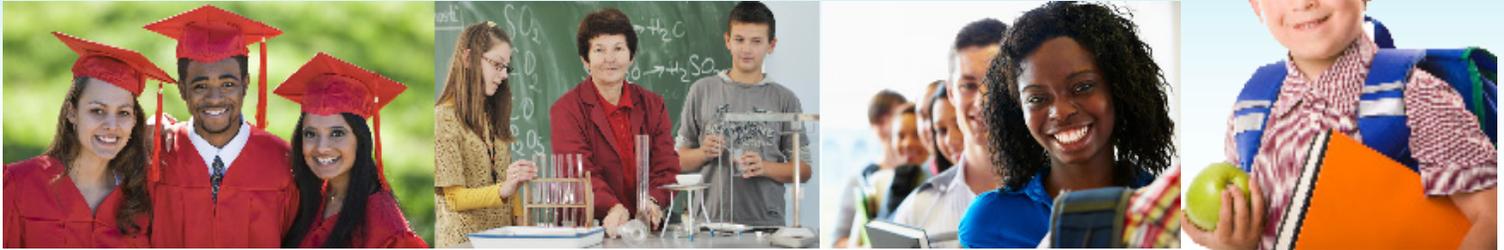


# FOCUS ON . . .



## NATIONAL RANKINGS

- Overall Kansas Rank: 7th
- Current Spending Per Pupil: 24th
- Total Revenues Per Pupil from All Sources: 23rd
- Percent of Current Spending on Instructional Costs: 12th

## About this Report

KASB staff created an index of educational outcomes to compare results from state to state. This report is an analysis of that study.

A list of the overall rankings is included on the back page of this report. The complete data report is available on the KASB website at [www.kasb.org](http://www.kasb.org), or by contacting the association.

The index is based on a combination of objective qualitative measures. The data comes from national sources, including the National Assessment of Education Progress, the annual Condition of Education report from the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Education Performance Measures Track Kansas School Improvement

Kansas ranks 7th in the nation in a study of 11 empirical measures of educational performance, including NAEP test scores, high school completion, ACT, SAT, preparation for college and adult education levels.

“Certainly impressive results, but we must do better,” said Dr. John Heim, KASB executive director. “The 450,000 children in our public schools today need an educational system that prepares them to compete against the very brightest and the very best. We want to be first in the nation in education, and we want to do it the Kansas way.”

Kansans have always valued public education. That hasn’t changed in 2011. Over the past year, KASB met with 300 community leaders at 10 locations during our Fall 2010 Regional “Listening Tour.” The association commissioned a public opinion survey of 500 voters in February, 2011. School districts all across the state held “Kansas Conversations” involving thousands of participants in close to 100 communities and school districts in discussions on how to improve education.

The message is clear: Kansans believe in their public schools, value local leadership and they want to do even better. This means setting clear expectations, providing the necessary resources, and allowing local districts to find what works best for them. That is the Kansas way.

By using multiple measurements, rather than a single test or statistic, to evaluate a state’s educational outcomes, this report provides a way to benchmark Kansas against the best - states that are truly achieving at high levels across all areas.

Over the past decade, Kansas improved its performance on 10 of the 11 indicators (see box at right), and improved or maintained the same national ranking on nine of the 11.

Each of the six states with an overall ranking higher than Kansas spends significantly more per pupil and each has a significantly lower percentage of students in poverty who are more likely “at-risk.”

Kansas out-ranks all of its neighboring states (Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma), as well as every state in a larger region that includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Texas except for one: Minnesota, which ranks 4th in the nation. However, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado rank immediately behind Kansas in positions eight through 11.

Although Kansas state reading and math assessments have been increasing for nearly a decade, some policy-makers and analysts argue these tests are not reliable, and suggest Kansas has seen little improvement on national tests and preparation for college, especially compared to other states adopting particular “reform” strategies.

---

**Each of the six states with an overall ranking higher than Kansas (Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Connecticut and New Jersey) spends significantly more per pupil and has a significantly lower percentage of students in poverty who are more likely “at-risk.”**

---

## KANSAS EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS

### Mastering the Basics before High School

*Two indicators:*

- ✓ Combined percent of all students scoring basic or above on the 4th and 8th grade NAEP reading and math tests.
- ✓ Combined percent of students eligible for free/reduced lunch scoring basic or above on 4th and 8th grade NAEP reading and math.



**Current National Rank: 6th**

### High School Completion

*Three indicators:*

- ✓ “Diplomas Count” report on high school completion (using cumulative promotion index).
- ✓ “Condition of Education” report on high school completion (using four year average freshman graduation rate).
- ✓ “Digest of Education Statistics” report on percent of 18-24 year olds receiving a high school diploma or equivalent.



**Current National Rank: 15th**

### Preparation for College

*Three indicators:*

- ✓ ACT state average scores (predominate test in 27 states).
- ✓ SAT state average scores and percent (predominate test in 23 states).
- ✓ Number of students per 1,000 graduates scoring at the 80th percentile on either the ACT or SAT.

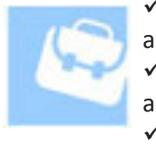


**Current National Rank: 7th**

### Adult Education Attainment

*Three indicators:*

- ✓ Percent of population 25 and older with a high school diploma or equivalent.
- ✓ Percent of population 25 and older with a college bachelor’s degree.
- ✓ Percent of population 25 and older with an advanced degree.



**Current National Rank: 13th**

# KANSAS PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL EDUCATION MEASURES

<b>Mastering the Basics before High School</b>		Scores		U.S. Rank	
Combined percent of all students scoring basic or above on the 4th and 8th grade National Assessment of Education Progress reading and math tests. (With four tests, a “perfect” score would be 400, i.e. 100 percent proficiency on each test.)		<u>2003</u> 304	<u>2009</u> 320	<u>2003</u> 11	<u>2009</u> 9
To measure how well states help “at-risk” students; combined percent of students eligible for free and reduced lunch scoring basic or above on the 4th and 8th grade 2009 National Assessment of Education Progress.		<u>2003</u> 251	<u>2009</u> 279	<u>2003</u> 7	<u>2009</u> 5
Overall Master the Basics ranking				6	6
<b>High School Completion</b>		Percentage		U.S. Rank	
High school completion based on the Diplomas Count report, which uses the year “cumulative promotion index.”		<u>1998</u> 72.1%	<u>2008</u> 75.6%	<u>1998</u> 19	<u>2008</u> 18
High school completion based on the Condition of Education report, which uses a four year “averaged freshman graduation rate.”		<u>2002</u> 77.1%	<u>2008</u> 79.0%	<u>2002</u> 18	<u>2008</u> 19
Digest of Education Statistics report on the percent of the population ages 18-24 who have received a high school diploma or equivalent. Unlike the first two measures, which attempt to include only students who graduate high school in four years, this includes all students who have completed high school but are not yet age 25.		<u>2000</u> 78.3%	<u>2008</u> 85.8%	<u>2000</u> 17	<u>2008</u> 17
Overall High School Completion ranking				17	15
<b>Preparation for College</b>		Indicator		U.S. Rank	
State composite or combined scores on either the ACT or SAT, whichever test is taken by the majority of graduates in that state. (In 27 states, the ACT is the majority test; in 23 the SAT predominates. This means that most states are “tied” in rank with a state in the same position on the other test.)		<u>2000</u> 21.7	<u>2010</u> 22.0	<u>2000</u> 6	<u>2010</u> 5
To balance the fact that states with higher percentages of students taking the test usually result in lower scores because more academically marginal students are tested, the percentage of students taking the majority test is used. (Since 2000, six states began requiring all high school graduates to take the ACT.)		<u>2000</u> 77%	<u>2010</u> 75%	<u>2000</u> 5	<u>2010</u> 13
The number of students scoring in the 80th percentile or above on either the ACT or SAT, per 1,000 high school graduates.		<u>1999</u> 187.9	<u>2010</u> 244.0	<u>1999</u> 6	<u>2010</u> 6
Overall Preparation for College ranking				2	7
<b>Adult Education Attainment</b>		Percentage		U.S. Rank	
The percent of the population 25 years and older with a high school diploma or equivalent.		<u>2000</u> 86%	<u>2008</u> 89.5%	<u>2000</u> 12	<u>2008</u> 16
The percent of the population 25 years and older with a four-year college degree.		<u>2000</u> 25.8%	<u>2008</u> 29.6%	<u>2000</u> 16	<u>2008</u> 14
The percent of the population 25 years and older with an advanced college degree.		<u>2000</u> 8.7%	<u>2008</u> 10.1%	<u>2000</u> 16	<u>2008</u> 16
Overall Adult Education Attainment ranking				13	13
<b>Overall Rank and Resources</b>		Amount		U.S. Rank	
Overall Kansas rank: average of all 11 educational achievement rankings.				<u>2000</u> 7	<u>2009</u> 7
Current spending per pupil (excludes debt service and long-term land, building and equipment expenditures).		<u>2000</u> \$4,342	<u>2009</u> \$9,951	<u>2000</u> 29	<u>2009</u> 24
Total revenues per pupil from all sources, including revenues for debt and capital costs plus student fee and other local revenues		<u>2000</u> \$6,521	<u>2009</u> \$11,796	<u>2000</u> 32	<u>2009</u> 23
Percent of current spending going to instructional costs as defined by U.S. government, i.e. teachers, classroom aides and teaching materials and supplies.		<u>2000</u> 57.3%	<u>2000</u> 61.5%	<u>2000</u> 48	<u>2009</u> 12

## KEY FINDINGS

### ***Unlike many states, Kansas ranks high nationally across all measures.***

Kansas ranks 7th in the nation overall because it consistently ranks high on every indicator. The lowest Kansas ranking is 19th on the Condition of Education graduation rate. Many other states rank relatively high in some areas but much lower in others.

For example, Florida and Texas rank 17th and 24th on basic NAEP reading and math scores, but both are in the bottom 10 for graduation rates and the bottom five for college preparation. Colorado ranks 29th in high school completion but 4th in college preparation, while Pennsylvania ranks 11th in high school completion but 35th in preparation for college.

These differences suggest that focusing too much attention – or the wrong kind of intervention – on any area may have a negative impact on other areas, or at a minimum, no positive impact.

Kansas is a leader in the nation, but many regional states are close behind.

The 10 states with the highest educational achievement rankings are the northeastern states of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and New Jersey; and the plains states of Minnesota, Kansas, North and South Dakota, and Nebraska. Kansas ranks 7th among these top states. In the 10-state region, only Minnesota ranks higher (4th), but North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado are right behind, ranking 8th through 11th and Iowa ranks 15th in the nation. Missouri ranks almost exactly in the middle of the states at 24th. Oklahoma (38th) and Texas (41st) are in the bottom 15 states.

Kansas has more “at-risk” students than most other high achieving states. Decades of education research and statistics show lower income and most racial minority students are more “at risk” of academic failure.

In addition to spending more per pupil, the top achieving states tend to have either fewer minorities or fewer low income students – or both – than most states. Kansas has both more minorities and more students in poverty as a percentage of its population than most other high achieving states.

---

**Kansas has a lower percentage of white students than seven of the top 10 states in education attainment, and a higher percent of students in poverty than nine of the top 10 states. This indicates Kansas has effective programs for assisting at-risk students.**

---

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS AND SPENDING PER PUPIL, TOP ACHIEVING STATES				
Educational Attainment Rank	State	White Students as Percent of Total	Percentage of School Age Children in Poverty	Expenditures per Pupil (2009)
1	Massachusetts	69.6%	12.8%	\$14,118
2	Vermont	90.8%	10.6%	\$15,175
3	New Hampshire	88.4%	9.5%	\$11,932
4	Minnesota	75.9%	13.0%	\$11,098
5	Connecticut	62.4%	11.5%	\$14,531
6	New Jersey	51.9%	12.6%	\$16,271
7	Kansas	71.9%	15.9%	\$9,951
8	North Dakota	84.1%	12.1%	\$10,151
9	South Dakota	75.4%	16.6%	\$8,507
10	Nebraska	73.8%	13.8%	\$10,045

## ***Kansas has its highest results on national test scores.***

Kansas' highest rank is in Mastering the Basics before High School. On the National Assessment of Education Progress scores for basic reading and math skills at 4th and 8th grades, Kansas ranked 9th in the nation for all students and 5th in the nation for free and reduced lunch students – indicating our state's efforts to help “at-risk” students are paying off. The five states with higher overall combined NAEP scores each had higher spending per pupil than Kansas.

---

## **Kansas has the 6th highest number of ACT and SAT scores in the 80th percentile per 1,000 high school graduates.**

---

The state's second highest rank is in Preparation for College. Among the states where a majority of students take the ACT, Kansas has the 5th highest national score for high school seniors. Kansas has the 6th highest number of ACT and SAT scores in the 80th percentile per 1,000 high school graduates.

The percentage of Kansas high school graduates taking the ACT dropped slightly, from 77 percent in 2000 to 75 percent in 2010. However, the percentage of Kansas high school students actually graduating also increased over this time.

Five of the six states outscoring Kansas on college preparation spent more per pupil.

This report gives equal weight in state rankings for the percentage of graduates taking either the ACT or SAT test, whichever is the majority test. This rewards states that encourage or require students to take college aptitude tests. It also recognizes that as the percentage of students taking the test increases, scores tend to drop.

Scores will be much higher if only the most motivated, college-bound students are included. For example, in 2000 Colorado had an average ACT score of 21.5 while testing 64 percent of graduates. In 2010, after Colorado required all graduates to take the test, its score dropped to 20.6. However, Colorado is first in the nation in high ACT or SAT scores per 1,000 graduates.

---

**Kansas improved both its scores and its ranking on the NAEP and ACT over the past decade: On the NAEP, Kansas went from 11th in the nation in 2003 to 9th in 2009. On the ACT, Kansas went from 6th in 2000 to 5th in 2010 among states where most students take the ACT.**

---

## ***Kansas' weakest area is high school completion – but still ranks in the top third.***

Kansas ranks 15th in the nation on three measures of high school completion, but below five states in the region: North Dakota (2nd), Iowa (3rd), Minnesota (7th), Nebraska (9th) and South Dakota (12th). Kansas outranks Missouri (17th), Colorado (29th), Oklahoma (34th) and Texas (40th).

Kansas has a slightly higher ranking for high school completers ages 18-24 than for either of the four-year graduation rate measures. This suggests the state does a somewhat better job getting students who may have dropped out or fallen behind their classmates to complete a diploma within several years. In contrast, Missouri has higher four-year graduation rates, but a much lower rank in high school completion among young adults (32nd).

States with the highest graduation rates tend to be those with few minorities and lower student poverty rates. However, several more diverse states, such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Maryland, rank above Kansas.

(continued)

### ***Weakest Area (continued)***

It should be noted that these states all spend significantly more per pupil than Kansas.

To move up in the national rankings, Kansas might be best served to focus on its weakest area – high school completion – while at least maintaining its high ranking in national test scores.

---

**Of the 12 states with higher overall levels of adult attainment than Kansas, all but one (Colorado) spend more per pupil. Kansas also improved the percentage of attainment in each area.**

---

### ***Kansas maintains high levels of adult attainment from high school through college.***

Kansas ranks 13th in adult (age 25 and older) education levels, despite ranking 16th in high school completion, 14th in completion of four-year degrees, and 16th in completion of advanced degrees. The reason Kansas has a higher overall ranking in this area, than on any of the three component indicators, is that many states either rank much better in high school completion than college completion, or they do better in college completion rather than high school completion.

In fact, of the 15 states that rank above Kansas in adult high school completion, only three (New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington) rank higher in both four-year and advanced degrees, while Minnesota ranks higher in four-year degrees only. This indicates that Kansas does very well in both graduating students from high school and preparing them to be successful in college (as the state's ACT and SAT scores also indicate).

Adult education attainment is not solely the result of the school system. In some states, “college

bound” or educated students may leave the state for education and employment opportunities elsewhere.

For example, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota all rank above Kansas in high school completion by adults over 25, but all except Minnesota rank below Kansas in four-year college completion, ranking 10th, 36th, 31st and 24th, respectively, and all of these states ranks below Kansas on advanced degrees, ranking 18th, 43rd, 42nd and 48th.

Kansas clearly has less of a “brain drain” than many Midwestern states, or does a better job attracting people with high education levels to replace those who leave.

On the other hand, some states with lower achievement and graduation rates may attract highly educated individuals for specialized employment or other amenities. For example, Colorado ranks 29th in high school completion, but ranks 5th in adult attainment. This is likely due in large part to the immigration of skilled workers.

Of the 12 states with higher overall levels of adult attainment than Kansas, all but one (Colorado) spend more per pupil. Kansas also improved the percentage of attainment in each area.

### ***Most high achieving states are also high spending, and most low achieving states spend less.***

Of the 10 highest achieving states across all 11 measures, all but Kansas and South Dakota rank in the top half of the nation in current spending per pupil. All of the six states ranking higher than Kansas spent more per pupil in 2009, the last year comparable data is available.

Of the 10 lowest achieving states, all but two (West Virginia and Louisiana) also rank in the bottom half of the nation in current spending.

Although there is considerable variation between spending and results, it is clear that most of the top education states are relatively well funded, and most of the least well educated states are among the least well funded.

***Kansas significantly increased its instructional spending.***

A popular proposal in recent years has been to encourage states to spend a higher percentage of their resources on “instruction,” sometimes called “in the classroom.” This is arguably misleading, or at least misunderstood, because the federal definition of instructional costs includes sports and student activities but excludes programs almost everyone agrees affects student learning, such as libraries, counseling and health services.

Of the top 10 states in achievement, eight ranked in the top half of the nation on the percentage of current spending going to instruction. Because most of these states are also high spending states, the implication is that both how much is spent and how it is spent makes a difference.

However, several high achieving states that spent the least per pupil, including South Dakota

---

**Of the top 10 states in achievement, eight ranked in the top half of the nation on the percentage of current spending going to instruction. Because most of these states are also high spending states, the implication is that both how much is spent and how it is spent makes a difference.**

---

and Colorado also ranked very low in percent of spending on instruction, indicating that targeting more money on instruction doesn’t necessarily make a state more “efficient.” In fact, the only state in 2009 that reached the common “target” of at least 65 percent of current spending on instruction was New York, which was also the highest spending state in the nation and scored just 21st in overall achievement.

Kansas ranks 12th in percent of spending on instruction – much higher than its ranking on spending per pupil – and increased its ranking more than any state in the nation, from 48th in 2000. However, that dramatic increase in instructional spending rank did not change Kansas’ educational outcomes rank, which remained 7th overall.



### ***Charter Schools and Public Funding of Private Schools Makes No Difference in Achievement.***

Another proposal by some education reformers is to promote “charter schools” which may be exempt from certain state rules and regulations and independent from the control of local school boards, depending on state law. In addition, some advocates support public funding for private schools through vouchers or scholarships that can be used for tuition, or tax credits for tuition or contributions for

scholarships. These strategies appear to have little impact on education in the highest performing states.

As the table below indicates, four of the top 10 states in educational attainment do not allow charter schools at all. Kansas, considered by some to have a “weak” charter school law, has a higher percentage of students in charter schools than New Hampshire and Connecticut. Only three of the 10 have a higher percentage of students in charter schools than Kansas.

CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND PUBLIC FUNDING FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, TOP ACHIEVING STATES				
Educational Achievement Rank	State	Percent of Students in Charter Schools	Vouchers for Private Schools?	Tax Credits for Private Schools?
1	Massachusetts	2.8%	No	No
2	Vermont	0% - No Law	Only in towns with no public school	No
3	New Hampshire	0.3%	No	No
4	Minnesota	3.6%	No	Yes
5	Connecticut	0.8%	No	No
6	New Jersey	1.4%	No	No
7	Kansas	0.9%	No	No
8	North Dakota	0% - No Law	No	No
9	South Dakota	0% - No Law	No	No
10	Nebraska	0% - No Law	No	No

**Of the top 10 states in achievement, only Vermont has a private school voucher program, and that program only applies to students who live in towns without a public school. Only one state, Minnesota, allows state tax credits for contributions or tuition at private elementary and secondary schools.**

Another way to evaluate the impact of charter schools is looking at the states that have the most students enrolled in these schools. The table below shows the top states for charter school enrollment, the state's current and previous educational attainment rank, and the change in ranking.

The record of states with high charter school enrollment is mixed. Six ranked in the bottom half of states in educational attainment. Five of the states increased their ranking over the past decade while six declined. Having a higher number of students enrolled in charter schools has not demonstrated a consistent improvement in educational attainment.

*(continued)*

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RANK OF STATES WITH HIGHEST CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT				
State	Percent of Student in Charter Schools	1998-2003 Education Attainment Rank	Current Education Attainment Rank	Change in Rank
Arizona	7.5%	38	45	-7
Colorado	6.4%	14	11	+3
Michigan	6.4%	30	29	+1
Utah	4.8%	6	23	-17
Ohio	4.8%	31	22	+9
California	4.6%	39	40	-1
Florida	4.5%	41	37	+4
Idaho	4.3%	21	27	-6
Wisconsin	4.1%	12	14	-2
Pennsylvania	4.1%	29	19	+10
Hawaii	4.1%	32	32	-1

### WHAT ABOUT FLORIDA?

Many policy-makers are interested in the results of a series of changes adopted in Florida over a decade ago. In particular, advocates point to significant increases in Florida's NAEP scores for reading.

Florida did show dramatic improvement on the combined NAEP, increasing its Mastering the Basics before High School ranking from 35th in the nation in 2003 to 17th in 2009. The improvement in scores for low income students is even more impressive, rising from 46th to 9th.

However, other areas have seen much less improvement or even decline. Florida's High

School Completion rank rose from 48th to 43rd. But Florida's Preparation for College ranking fell significantly, from 32nd to 47th. The state's Adult Education Attainment ranking dropped one position, from 31st to 32nd.

Florida's overall ranking increased from 41st to 37th, largely due to its improving NAEP scores. It remains to be seen whether those scores will have a long-term positive impact on student preparation for college and careers.

The state remains in the bottom 15 in the nation in the overall ranking.

**Charter and Private Funding (continued)**

The record of states with some type of public funding for private education is equally mixed. Of the 11 states with voucher or tax credit programs that have been operating all or most of the past decade,

five increased their ranking and six declined. (These numbers do not include states that have enacted new voucher or tax credit laws within the past several years because these programs would not have had time to have an effect on student outcomes.)

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT RANK OF STATES WITH PRIVATE SCHOOL FUNDING PROGRAMS				
State	Vouchers or Tax Credits?	1998-2003 Education Attainment Rank	Current Education Attainment Rank	Change in Rank
Arizona	Tax Credits	38	45	-7
Utah	Vouchers	6	23	-17
Ohio	Vouchers	31	22	+9
Florida	Both	41	37	+4
Wisconsin	Vouchers	12	14	-2
Pennsylvania	Tax Credits	29	19	+10
Illinois	Tax Credits	19	16	+3
Iowa	Tax Credits	9	15	-6
Minnesota	Tax Credits	2	4	-2
Maine	Vouchers	17	20	-3
Vermont	Vouchers	3	2	+1

**WHY IT MATTERS**

**Higher educational outcomes lead to higher income and less poverty.**

Each level of education achieved, from high school completion to two-year college degrees, four-year

degrees and advanced degrees, result on average in higher annual earnings and lower unemployment rates. Over the past two decades, the differences in annual earnings have increased. In addition, as education levels increase, unemployment rates fall.

*(continued)*

ANNUAL EARNING AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATION ATTAINMENT								
Year	Not a high school graduate	High school graduate only	Some College, No Degree	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Professional Degree	Doctorate
<b>Mean Earning for persons 10 and older</b>								
1999	\$16,053	\$23,594	\$25,686	\$32,468	\$43,782	\$45,930	\$95,488	\$74,712
2009	\$21,023	\$31,283	\$32,555	\$39,506	\$56,613	\$70,856	\$125,019	\$99,697
Increase	\$4,970	\$7,689	\$6,869	\$7,038	\$12,831	\$24,926	\$29,531	\$24,985
<b>Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for civilian population 25 and over</b>								
July 2011	15.0%	9.3%	8.3%				4.3%	

As a result, states with higher levels of adult educational attainment are much more likely to have higher income levels and lower poverty rates. The chart below compare states based on their adult educational attainment ranking, which is the

average of the state’s ranks in the percentages of the population 25 and older with (1) a high school diploma or equivalent, (2) a four-year college degree, and (3) an advanced degree.

2008 AVERAGE STATE INCOME AND POVERTY LEVELS BY GROUPS OF TEN					
State Ranking in Adult Education	Per Capita Income	Household Income	Family Income	Individual Poverty Rate	Family Poverty Rate
Top 10	\$45,273	\$62,435	\$76,291	9.7%	6.6%
Second 10	\$39,226	\$56,227	\$68,147	11.4%	7.9%
Third 10	\$38,353	\$50,448	\$62,735	12.2%	8.4%
Fourth 10	\$34,312	\$47,280	\$57,631	13.9%	10.1%
Bottom 10	\$33,790	\$43,537	\$53,473	16.4%	12.5%

The top states in adult educational attainment have the highest average per capita income, household income and family income, and the lowest poverty rates for both individuals and families. For each group of 10 states, as educational attainment falls, average income also drops and poverty rates increase.

In the 10-state region that includes Kansas, similar patterns can be found. The two highest ranking states, Colorado and Minnesota, have significantly

higher average income levels. Minnesota has significantly lower poverty rates than Colorado, which may reflect that Minnesota has a much higher high school completion rate (fewer dropouts likely means less poverty).

Kansas ranks 3rd in adult attainment, which is close to its ranking on these measures: 5th in per capita, 3rd in household and 3rd for family, 3rd lowest individual poverty and 4th lowest family poverty. The lowest-ranking states in educational

2008 STATE EDUCATION, INCOME AND POVERTY LEVELS FOR KANSAS REGION					
State Ranking in Adult Education	Per Capita Income	Household Income	Family Income	Individual Poverty Rate	Family Poverty Rate
5 – Colorado	\$41,344	\$56,993	\$70,164	11.4%	7.8%
7 – Minnesota	\$41,552	\$57,288	\$71,817	9.6%	6.2%
13 – Kansas	\$37,916	\$50,177	\$62,462	11.3%	7.7%
21 – Nebraska	\$38,081	\$49,693	\$62,067	10.8%	6.8%
29 – So. Dakota	\$36,935	\$46,032	\$60,104	12.5%	8.2%
30 – No. Dakota	\$39,530	\$45,685	\$61,109	12.0%	8.4%
31 – Missouri	\$35,676	\$46,867	\$58,088	13.4%	9.7%
33 – Iowa	\$36,751	\$48,980	\$61,663	11.5%	7.3%
41 – Texas	\$36,484	\$50,043	\$58,765	15.8%	12.4%
42 – Oklahoma	\$35,268	\$42,822	\$53,862	15.9%	11.8%

attainment, Texas and Oklahoma, rank at or near the bottom on every measure except household income. These two states also have substantially higher poverty rates than other states in the region.

## OVERALL RANK ON 11 MEASURE INDEX

1	Massachusetts
2	Vermont
3	New Hampshire
4	Minnesota
5	Connecticut
6	New Jersey
7	Kansas
8	North Dakota
9	South Dakota
10	Nebraska
11	Colorado
12	Maryland
13	Montana
14	Wisconsin
15	Iowa
16	Illinois
17	Virginia

18	Wyoming
19	Pennsylvania
20	Maine
21	New York
22	Ohio
23	Utah
24	Missouri
25	Washington
26	Oregon
27	Idaho
28	Rhode Island
29	Delaware
29	Michigan
31	Hawaii
32	Indiana
33	Alaska
34	Tennessee

35	Kentucky
36	North Carolina
37	Florida
38	Oklahoma
39	Georgia
40	California
41	Texas
42	Arkansas
43	West Virginia
44	South Carolina
45	Arizona
46	New Mexico
47	Alabama
48	Louisiana
49	Nevada
50	Mississippi

The rankings above were created using an index based on a combination of objective qualitative measures of education outcomes. The data comes from the National Assessment of Education Progress, the annual Condition of Education report from the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Census Bureau. The complete data report is available on the KASB website at [www.kasb.org](http://www.kasb.org), or by contacting the association.

---

### ABOUT THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

KASB, headquartered in Topeka, is the state organization that provides services, training and resources for local boards of education. KASB members are governing boards for unified school districts, community colleges, area vocational-technical schools, special education cooperatives and interlocals, and regional service centers. KASB assists local board of education with professional development and goal setting, policy development, research, legislative advocacy, superintendent searches, insurance services and legal issues.

[www.kasb.org](http://www.kasb.org)

Kansas Association of School Boards

1420 SW Arrowhead Road

Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024

785.273.3600 Fax: 785.273.7580 Toll Free: 800.432.2471

**September, 2011**