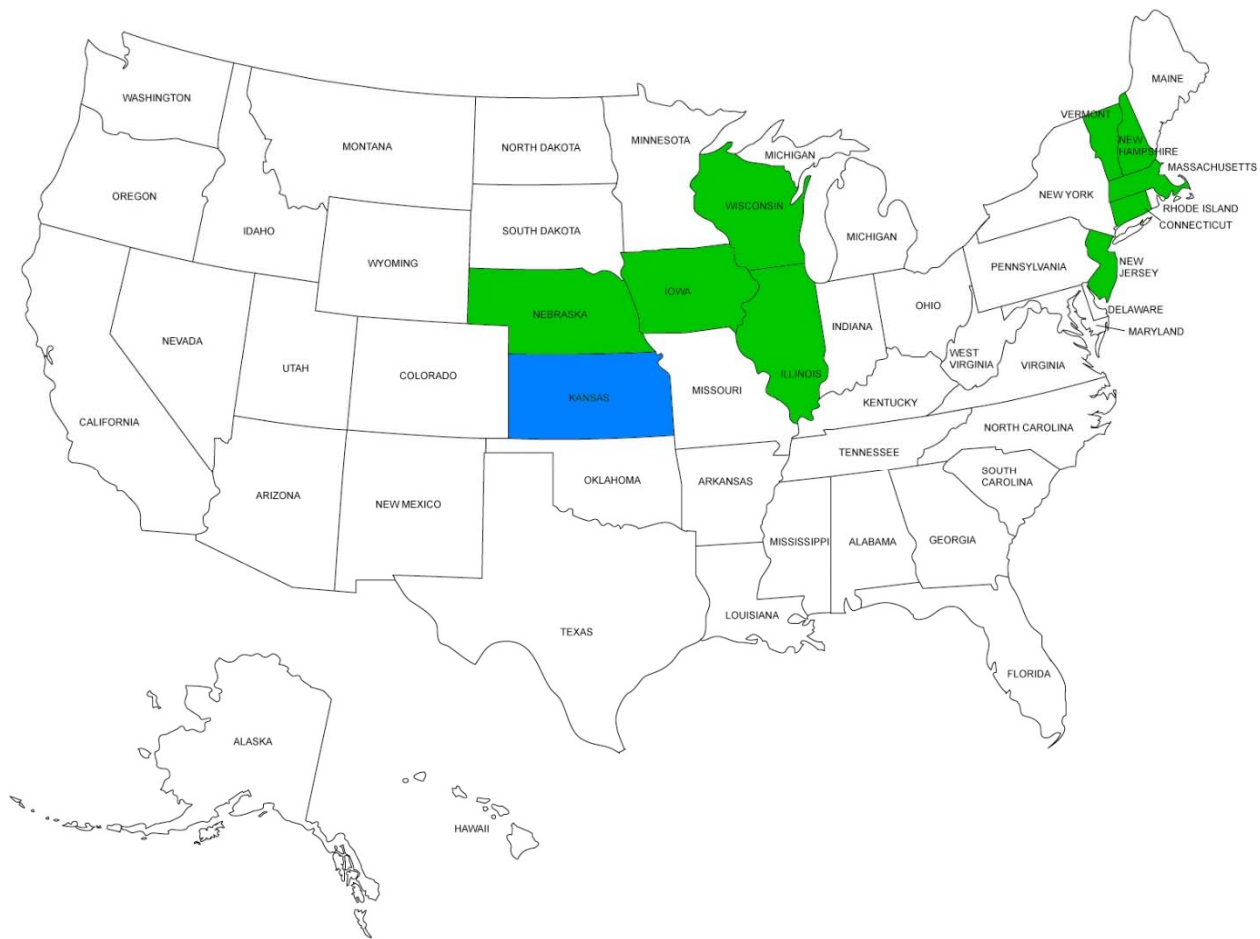




# KASB Comparing Kansas 2017



*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 Comparing Kansas report 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. This is the second year KASB has produced this report using the same data elements and calculations.

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

Indicators	Why it Matters	Weight
<b>Postsecondary</b> - percent of the 18-24-year-old population with: (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)		<b>33.33%</b>
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%
<b>Graduation</b> - Adjusted cohort graduation rate for: (Source: National Center for Education Statistics)		<b>33.33%</b>
4. All students	<i>Kansans Can Outcomes:</i> High school graduation	8.33%
5. Economically disadvantaged students		8.33%
6. Students with limited English		8.33%
7. Students with disabilities		8.33%
<b>Assessments</b> - National Assessment of Educational Progress 4th and 8th grade reading and math average percent of students scoring at the following benchmark levels: (Source: NAEP)		<b>11.11%</b>
8. Basic or higher for all students	<i>Rose Capacities:</i> Oral and written communication skills enable students to function in a complex and rapidly changing civilization; Training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields 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. Proficient or higher for not low		1.85%
<b>Assessments:</b> 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)		<b>22.22%</b>
14. Percent of students scoring at the ACT	<i>Rose Capacities:</i> Training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields to enable each child to choose and pursue life work intelligently (same suggestion here)	11.11%
15. Average mean score on the SAT test		11.11%

# Comparing Kansas: Aspiration States and Peer States

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

**Aspiration States:** 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:** 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.

**Adjacent States:** States directly adjacent to Kansas (Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma).

**Student Peers:** States with the most similar students in terms of poverty, English Language proficiency, special education, ethnicity.

**Adult Peers:** States with most similar adult characteristics (income, education and poverty levels).

**Population Distribution Peers:** States with the most similar concentration of population in urban and rural areas.

**Overall Peers:** States most similar across all factors.

The table on this page shows the states identified for these groups for 2017, 2016, and the overall peers and aspiration states identified for 2015.

The peer states are further defined and identified on the last page of this report. A complete report on all factors for all states is available in the Comparing Kansas Supplement, which can be found at [kasb.org](http://kasb.org).

State	2015		2016			2017						
	Overall Peers	Aspiration	Overall	Student	Adult	Distribution	Aspiration	Overall	Student	Adult	Distribution	Aspiration
Alaska			X	X		X		X	X		X	
Arkansas				X				X				
Connecticut							X		X			X
Delaware	X				X					X		
Georgia					X					X		
Hawaii					X					X		
Idaho	X		X	X	X		X				X	
Illinois	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
Indiana		X										
Iowa	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X
Kentucky						X					X	
Maine	X				X		X		X			
Massachusetts		X					X		X			X
Michigan	X		X	X	X		X	X	X			
Minnesota	X	X	X			X					X	
Missouri	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Montana										X		
Nebraska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Hampshire		X					X					X
New Jersey	X						X					X
New Mexico			X			X					X	
North Carolina										X		
North Dakota		X				X	X				X	
Oklahoma						X					X	
Oregon	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Pennsylvania	X		X	X			X	X	X			
Rhode Island				X	X		X	X	X			
South Dakota	X		X		X	X	X		X	X		
Utah					X					X		
Vermont		X					X					X
Virginia									X			
Washington	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Counts	11	11	14	9	15	14	9	16	14	16	14	9

## Demographic Comparison: Kansas to Aspiration States

It is important to consider 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, 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 Comparing Kansas 2017 Supplement.

## 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 (using the weightings described on page 3); then ranked each state by that average. Based on the latest data, Kansas ranked 10th in the nation.

KASB identifies those states which rank higher than Kansas as “aspiration states.” The following table shows all 50 states sorted by their weighted ranking.

Every state that ranked above Kansas provided more total revenue per pupil than Kansas in 2015, both in actual dollars and 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 2015 (averaging each year’s total revenue per pupil).

Every state that ranked above Kansas also increased total revenue by at least 9 percent between 2008 and 2015, compared to Kansas’ 4.8 percent increase, which means Kansas funding has fallen farther behind the highest achieving states.

The states identified this year as aspiration states are the same as last year, with two exceptions. Wisconsin, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> last year, moved up to 9<sup>th</sup> and became an aspiration state, while North Dakota, ranked 8<sup>th</sup> last year, moved down to 11<sup>th</sup> and is no longer considered an aspiration state.

Peer state highlights:

- Four of 16 overall peers rank higher than Kansas: Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin.
- Five of 14 student peers rank higher than Kansas: Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska and Wisconsin.
- Two of 16 adult peer students rank higher than Kansas: Illinois and Nebraska.
- Three of 14 population distribution states rank higher than Kansas: Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Like all aspiration states, all peer states ranking higher than Kansas provide more total funding per pupil than Kansas.

Overall Outcome Ranks and Aspiration States										
	Overall Rank	Aspiration States	Total Revenue Per Pupil				Funding 2008-15			
			Actual Dollars		State Cost Adjusted (RPP)		Average Per Pupil		Percent Change	
			Amt	Rank	Amt	Rank	Amt	Rank	Amt	Rank
Massachusetts	1	X	\$18,387	7	\$17,200	9	\$16,835	7	18.7%	9
New Jersey	2	X	\$21,097	4	\$18,604	6	\$19,510	2	14.2%	22
Iowa	3	X	\$12,770	22	\$14,142	20	\$11,849	26	16.9%	14
New Hampshire	4	X	\$16,348	11	\$15,570	13	\$14,866	12	22.4%	8
Vermont	5	X	\$20,291	6	\$19,971	4	\$17,912	6	24.8%	5
Connecticut	6	X	\$21,484	3	\$19,764	5	\$18,762	4	29.4%	4
Nebraska	7	X	\$13,309	20	\$14,690	17	\$12,394	21	17.1%	13
Illinois	8	X	\$15,340	13	\$15,386	15	\$13,694	15	30.5%	3
Wisconsin	9	X	\$13,090	21	\$14,060	22	\$12,664	19	9.0%	33
Kansas	10		\$12,055	31	\$13,335	25	\$11,674	27	4.8%	39
North Dakota	11		\$15,145	15	\$16,408	11	\$13,256	17	35.4%	1
Minnesota	12		\$14,291	18	\$14,672	18	\$13,200	18	16.9%	15
Rhode Island	13		\$17,416	9	\$17,645	8	\$16,077	9	15.9%	16
Missouri	14		\$11,802	33	\$13,216	26	\$10,978	34	14.7%	20
Maine	15		\$15,157	14	\$15,466	14	\$14,020	14	17.1%	12
Tennessee	16		\$9,485	44	\$10,551	43	\$8,814	47	13.4%	25
Virginia	17		\$12,174	28	\$11,877	36	\$11,855	25	3.1%	42
Maryland	18		\$16,574	10	\$15,122	16	\$15,928	10	7.1%	37
Pennsylvania	19		\$17,937	8	\$18,322	7	\$16,167	8	22.6%	7
Indiana	20		\$12,163	29	\$13,410	24	\$12,034	24	13.6%	24
Kentucky	21		\$10,963	38	\$12,374	32	\$10,402	39	10.0%	28
New York	22		\$24,116	1	\$20,916	3	\$21,787	1	24.2%	6
Utah	23		\$8,188	49	\$8,441	50	\$7,748	50	8.6%	35
Arkansas	24		\$11,034	36	\$12,625	29	\$10,539	36	14.5%	21
Michigan	25		\$13,429	19	\$14,363	19	\$12,455	20	15.5%	18
Colorado	26		\$11,010	37	\$10,669	42	\$10,408	38	9.5%	31
Delaware	27		\$16,222	12	\$16,157	12	\$15,076	11	12.3%	26
North Carolina	28		\$8,974	47	\$9,840	47	\$9,669	44	-6.0%	48
California	29		\$12,128	30	\$10,695	41	\$11,208	30	4.1%	40
South Dakota	30		\$10,633	40	\$12,056	35	\$10,197	40	8.9%	34
Texas	31		\$11,071	35	\$11,437	39	\$10,475	37	10.0%	29
Ohio	32		\$14,679	17	\$16,456	10	\$13,564	16	15.5%	17
West Virginia	33		\$12,395	25	\$13,943	23	\$12,037	23	17.8%	10
Washington	34		\$12,691	24	\$12,110	34	\$11,613	28	17.7%	11
Alabama	35		\$10,012	41	\$11,535	38	\$9,846	42	-3.7%	46
Montana	36		\$12,378	27	\$13,057	28	\$11,514	29	13.8%	23
Hawaii	37		\$14,824	16	\$12,478	31	\$14,128	13	4.9%	38
Wyoming	38		\$20,889	5	\$21,714	1	\$19,121	3	12.2%	27
Idaho	39		\$7,906	50	\$8,465	49	\$7,798	49	-2.3%	45
South Carolina	40		\$11,863	32	\$13,137	27	\$11,137	31	9.1%	32
Oklahoma	41		\$9,110	46	\$10,133	44	\$8,962	46	1.2%	43
Oregon	42		\$12,387	26	\$12,487	30	\$11,105	32	15.3%	19
Georgia	43		\$10,817	39	\$11,681	37	\$10,749	35	-4.7%	47
Florida	44		\$9,828	43	\$9,877	46	\$9,898	41	-13.3%	50
Mississippi	45		\$9,343	45	\$10,839	40	\$9,085	45	3.8%	41
Arizona	46		\$8,634	48	\$8,975	48	\$8,802	48	-7.2%	49
Louisiana	47		\$12,757	23	\$14,081	21	\$12,211	22	9.9%	30
Alaska	48		\$22,338	2	\$21,153	2	\$18,472	5	33.3%	2
New Mexico	49		\$11,614	34	\$12,303	33	\$10,988	33	7.1%	36
Nevada	50		\$9,896	42	\$10,098	45	\$9,836	43	-2.2%	44

# State Funding Per Pupil and Budget Choices

## Total Funding

In 2015, the most recent year data is available, total K-12 per pupil funding from all sources (state, local and federal) in Kansas was \$12,055, ranking 31st 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 over \$1,500 less than the all states 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 and distribution peers.

Kansas ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in current spending per pupil, which excludes capital construction and equipment costs and debt payments, and ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in instructional spending per pupil, which is funding spent exclusively on teachers, paraprofessionals, classroom aides, teacher materials and student activities.

Total Funding																
	School Spending 2015															
	Actual Dollars				State Cost of Living Adjusted (RPP)						Funding 2008-15					
	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
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10,040</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6,137</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13,335</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11,106</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6,789</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11,674</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>39</b>
All States	13,569		11,726		6,995		13,870		11,986		7,138		12,666		11.7%	
Aspiration	16,902	11.9	14,773	11.9	9,006	10.8	16,599	12.3	14,516	11.8	8,857	10.9	15,387	12.4	20.3%	12.3
Adjacent	11,308	34.0	9,855	33.3	5,894	33.8	12,177	32.3	10,624	32.3	6,363	32.5	10,685	34.8	10.6%	26.8
Overall Peers	13,307	25.0	11,539	24.5	6,893	24.2	13,976	24.2	12,115	24.1	7,242	23.7	12,269	25.7	14.4%	21.2
Student Peers	15,201	17.8	13,204	17.4	7,869	17.5	15,350	18.5	13,334	17.6	7,947	18.1	13,829	18.8	18.4%	15.6
Adult Peers	13,211	24.5	11,451	24.3	6,856	24.2	13,615	25.4	11,805	24.9	7,073	24.5	12,368	24.8	12.5%	23.7
Distribution Peers	11,741	31.4	10,157	30.9	6,006	31.4	12,815	28.8	11,092	29.1	6,553	29.7	11,029	31.8	12.9%	24.2

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 to 25<sup>th</sup>, current spending per pupil to 26<sup>th</sup> and instructional spending per pupil to 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 2015, a seven-year period reflecting the years since the Great Recession. Kansas average funding over this period was \$11,674, lower than the average of all peer groups except adjacent states and distribution peers.



The percent change in per pupil funding for Kansas between 2008 and 2015 was 4.8 percent, ranking 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Every comparison group increased funding by at least two times the increase in Kansas, and the average for the aspiration states was over four times the increase in Kansas.

Compared to last year, Kansas' ranking for actual dollars went down from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Total Revenue, from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> in Current Spending, and from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Spending on Instruction. The rankings for cost-of-living adjusted dollars did not decrease as much, staying at 25<sup>th</sup> for Total Revenue and 26<sup>th</sup> for Current Spending, but going from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> in Spending on Instruction. The average funding from 2008-15 is at 27<sup>th</sup>, the same as the average funding from 2008-14, and the ranking in funding change from 2008-15 is at 39<sup>th</sup>, compared to 38<sup>th</sup> for the change from 2008-14.

**Key Fact: Kansas spent less than the average of all states, aspiration states and most peer groups and since 2008 the rate of increase has been much less than any comparison group, which means Kansas per pupil funding has been falling behind.**

## Allocation of Revenues by School Districts

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

Actual Dollars, 2015									
	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
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>\$ 12,055</b>	<b>\$ 10,040</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$ 6,137</b>	<b>50.9%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>15</b>
All States	\$ 13,569	\$ 11,726	86.6%		\$ 6,995	51.4%		59.4%	
Aspiration	\$ 16,902	\$ 14,773	87.5%	22.0	\$ 9,006	53.5%	15.3	61.1%	15.8
Adjacent	\$ 11,308	\$ 9,855	87.1%	23.8	\$ 5,894	51.7%	27.8	59.3%	28.8
Overall Peers	\$ 13,307	\$ 11,539	86.7%	26.7	\$ 6,893	51.8%	24.1	59.8%	23.9
Student Peers	\$ 15,201	\$ 13,204	86.9%	25.0	\$ 7,869	51.8%	24.6	59.5%	24.9
Adult Peers	\$ 13,211	\$ 11,451	86.7%	26.1	\$ 6,856	52.0%	23.9	59.9%	21.5
Distribution Peers	\$ 11,741	\$ 10,157	86.6%	26.4	\$ 6,006	51.0%	25.6	59.0%	27.7

Kansas spends 83.3 percent of total revenues on current operating costs, which means just over 15 percent of Kansas school funding goes to capital costs (buildings and equipment) and paying for debt (mainly bond issues.) Most states (43) spend a higher percentage on current costs.

However, Kansas spends 50.9 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 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation, and was slightly lower than the national average and all peer groups.

Kansas spent 61.1 percent of current operating funds on instruction, ranking 15<sup>th</sup>. That was higher than the all states average and all peer groups, and was equal to the average percent spent by aspiration states.

Compared to the previous year (2014), the percent of Kansas Total Revenue going to Current Spending dropped from 39<sup>th</sup> to 44<sup>th</sup>, the percent of Total Revenue going to Instructional Spending dropped from 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, and the percent of Current Spending going to Instruction dropped from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

In addition, when funding is flat or declining compared to inflation, districts have less ability to control fixed costs such as utilities, transportation or food service, which reduce funding available for instruction. As a result less revenue is available for instruction.

**Key facts: Kansas spends a higher than average share of funding on capital (building and equipment) costs, in part because districts have more ability to raise those revenues. Kansas ranks high on the share of operating dollars going to instruction (teachers, aides and paraprofessional), but dropped in 2015, perhaps because fixed costs (utilities, transportation, food service) rose faster than operating income.**

## Teacher Salaries and Pupil Teacher Ratios

In 2015, the average teacher salary in Kansas was \$48,990, ranking 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation, compared to \$45,136 in 2008. Kansas had an 8.5 percent increase from 2008 to 2015, ranking 26<sup>th</sup> in the nation. (Note that Kansas funding per pupil increased just 4.8 percent over this period, ranking 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation.)

	Average Teacher Salary		Increase in Salary 2008-15		Pupil Teacher Ratio					
	2008	Rank	2015	Rank	Percent	Rank	2008	Rank	2015	Rank
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>\$45,136</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$48,990</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>43</b>
All States	\$49,482		\$54,634		10.2%		15.3		15.6	
Aspiration	\$53,000	18.6	\$61,172	14.1	15.7%	14.4	12.7	40.2	13.3	38.9
Adjacent	\$44,223	38.3	\$48,042	38.3	8.7%	28.3	14.4	29.5	15.2	26.0
Overall Peers	\$47,619	29.6	\$53,035	28.0	11.1%	21.8	15.4	21.7	15.7	25.1
Student Peers	\$52,727	18.4	\$59,441	17.3	12.5%	19.6	15.7	21.1	15.4	26.7
Adult Peers	\$49,369	25.2	\$54,432	24.1	10.5%	23.9	15.8	22.3	15.8	24.4
Distribution Peers	\$43,633	39.4	\$47,679	38.8	9.4%	27.0	14.7	26.6	14.8	29.1

Kansas has lower teacher salaries than the all states average, aspiration states and all peer groups except adjacent states and distribution peers. Between 2008 and 2015, 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 slightly more pupils per teacher than Kansas.

In other words, the states with the best educational outcomes provide more funding than Kansas or any peer groups; increased funding more than Kansas or any peer group; pay teachers more than Kansas or any peer group; raised teacher pay more than Kansas or any peer group, and have comparable pupil teacher ratios to Kansas, which are lower than any of the other comparison groups.

Compared to last year, Kansas teacher salaries went up in ranking, from 41<sup>st</sup> to 36<sup>th</sup>. The increase in salary from 2008-15 ranked 26<sup>th</sup>, compared to 34<sup>th</sup> from 2008-14. However, the rank in the pupil teacher ratio went down from 40<sup>th</sup> in 2014 to 43<sup>rd</sup> in 2015, even though there are more pupils per teacher in 2015. This is because the other comparison groups had larger increases in the number of students per teacher than Kansas.

**Key facts: Although Kansas funding per pupil is lower than most comparison states and has been falling further behind since 2007, Kansas improved its ranking in 2015, and maintains a very low pupil-teacher ratio, due to budget and compensation decisions by local school boards.**

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

### Key Facts

In 2015, 87.5 percent of Kansas adults under age 25 had graduated from high school. This makes Kansas 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

In addition, 57.8 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 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation on this measure. An estimated 71 percent of Kansas jobs in 2020 will require some postsecondary education.

Of young adult Kansans, 8.9 percent had completed a four-year degree or higher - 30<sup>th</sup> 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 8.9 percent is approximately 30 percent of those eligible.)

Kansas' rankings for educational attainment by 18-24-year-olds dropped noticeably compared to last year; from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> for High School Graduates, from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> for those with some college or higher, and from 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> for those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

18-24-Year-Old Educational Attainment Status Detail								
	High school graduate or higher 2015		Some college or higher 2015		Bachelor's degree or higher 2015		Average of Ranks	Rank of Average Ranks
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank		
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>22</b>
All States	86.7		55.7		9.8		25.3	
Aspiration	89.1	10.3	60.9	8.7	13.3	8.8	9.3	8.2
Adjacent	86.1	29.5	56.4	23.0	10.2	22.0	24.8	25.3
Overall Peers	86.7	25.0	55.8	24.8	9.3	25.2	25.0	25.5
Student Peers	87.7	18.7	57.4	18.9	11.2	17.6	18.4	18.1
Adult Peers	87.1	24.2	56.1	23.6	9.9	22.6	23.5	23.0
Distribution Peers	86.3	27.0	55.9	25.6	9.0	27.6	26.7	27.6

Comparatively, Kansas does better than most peer states in high school completion, but is faring less well in postsecondary enrollment and completion for this age group. Kansas trails the best performing states by 1.6 percent in high school completion, 3.1 percent in some college or postsecondary completion, and 4.4 percent in four-year completion.

### Postsecondary Trends for 18-24-year-olds

From 2005 to 2015, Kansas high school completion by young adults increased 3 percent, well below the all states average of 5.6 percent, ranking Kansas 44<sup>th</sup>. The rate for all peer groups increased between 4.5 percent and 5.6 percent, while aspiration states increased 5.2 percent.

For some postsecondary enrollment and completion, Kansas increased 5.9 percent, compared to the all states average of 9.3 percent, ranking 46<sup>th</sup>. Peer states increased between 8.1 percent and 9.4 percent,

and neighboring states increased 9.3 percent. Highest performing states increased 9.9 percent, slightly above the all states average.

In four-year or higher college completion, Kansas decreased 0.8 percent, compared to the all states average of an 0.8 percent increase, ranking Kansas 46<sup>th</sup> in growth. All peer states increased on average between 0.6 and 1.0 percent, and aspiration states increased an average of 1.3 percent.

Kansas also ranks higher in the change in high school attainment, but considerably lower in the change in postsecondary enrollment and attainment. Kansas was ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in the nine-year change from 2005-14, moving up to 44<sup>th</sup> for the ten-year change from 2005-15, but went from 31<sup>st</sup> for some college or higher from 2005-14 to 46<sup>th</sup> from 2005-15 and from 25<sup>th</sup> for bachelor's degrees or higher from 2005-14 to 46<sup>th</sup> from 2005-15.

18-24-Year-Old Attainment Change														
	High school graduate and higher				Some college or higher				Bachelor's degree or higher				Average of Change Ranks	Rank of Average Change Ranks
	2005	2015	10 Year Change	Change Rank	2005	2015	10 Year Change	Change Rank	2005	2015	10 Year Change	Change Rank		
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>48</b>
All States	81.1	86.7	5.6		46.4	55.7	9.3		9.0	9.8	0.8		23.8	24.0
Aspiration	83.9	89.1	5.2	29.4	51.0	60.9	9.9	22.1	12.1	13.3	1.3	19.8	23.8	24.0
Adjacent	81.1	86.1	5.0	31.5	47.1	56.4	9.3	24.8	9.1	10.2	1.1	22.5	26.3	28.0
Overall Peers	81.5	86.7	5.1	29.5	46.8	55.8	9.0	27.5	8.5	9.3	0.9	24.2	27.1	29.2
Student Peers	82.1	87.7	5.6	25.6	48.0	57.4	9.4	25.8	10.4	11.2	0.8	24.8	25.4	26.4
Adult Peers	82.1	87.1	5.0	29.4	47.9	56.1	8.1	31.5	9.3	9.9	0.6	26.8	29.2	31.1
Distribution Peers	81.8	86.3	4.5	33.3	47.3	55.9	8.6	28.7	7.9	9.0	1.0	23.1	28.4	32.8

## Conclusions

Kansas must continue to improve educational levels to meet employment and economic needs. By 2020, 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.

However, Kansas is beginning to fall behind other states. Kansas no longer ranks above the all state average and most similar states in educational attainment by young adults.

Kansas does well in graduating and getting students into college (top 20), but as of 2015 was below average in the bottom half of the states when it comes to college completion for this age group.

Most alarmingly, Kansas ranked in the bottom 10 states in improvement in postsecondary attainment by young adults since 2005, suggesting that Kansas workforce is in danger of becoming less competitive with other states. This decline has occurred as Kansas school funding has also declined compared to other states.

## Close Up: High School Graduation

### 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: 77.3 percent for economically disadvantaged groups (free and reduced price lunch eligible), 77.0 percent for Limited English Proficiency students and 77.3 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 suggests 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 20<sup>th</sup> in adjusted cohort graduation rate for all students, exceeding the all states average by 2.5 percent and peer states by 2-3 percent. Adjacent states are 1.6 percent below Kansas, and aspiration states are 2.5 percent higher.

Kansas ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in graduation for low income students, 2-4 percent better than peer states and 1.8 percent below aspiration states. Kansas ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students, 8-14 percent higher than peer states and almost 8 percent higher than aspiration states. Kansas also ranks 4<sup>th</sup> for students with disabilities, 10-14 percent higher than peer states and almost 6 percent higher than aspiration states.

Compared to last year, Kansas’ rankings for the cohort graduation rate have improved for all groups except for Special Education students, which remained 4<sup>th</sup>. The All Students ranking went from 21<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, Economically Disadvantaged from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, and Limited English Proficiency from 6<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>.

	Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates 2015							
	All Students		Economically Disadvantaged		Limited English Proficiency		Students with Disabilities	
	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank	Grad Rate	Rank
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>4</b>
All States	83.2		75.1		63.5		64.1	
Aspiration	88.2	9.0	79.1	14.7	69.2	18.4	71.6	14.3
Adjacent	84.1	22.5	76.3	21.8	61.8	30.5	69.3	17.5
Overall Peers	82.1	27.6	73.2	29.9	64.3	25.5	63.3	28.0
Student Peers	83.7	24.4	74.9	25.8	64.0	25.6	65.7	24.7
Adult Peers	83.8	25.0	74.9	26.2	62.9	26.8	65.7	24.1
Distribution Peers	83.1	25.0	74.1	27.1	68.6	20.7	67.2	21.6

### Graduation Trends

Since 2011, when all states began using the adjusted cohort graduation rate measure, Kansas increased 2.7 percent for all students, 4.3 percent for economically disadvantaged students, 7.0 percent for LEP students, and 4.3 percent for students with disabilities.

Kansas’ rate of increase has been mostly below the all states average, ranking 31<sup>st</sup> for all students, 30<sup>th</sup> for low income students, 20<sup>th</sup> for LEP students and 29<sup>th</sup> for students with disabilities.

All peer groups had higher rates of increase for all students and low income students (except for adjacent states in low income students). Kansas had a higher growth for LEP students than any comparison group. For students with disabilities, Kansas grew less than the all states average and the peer groups, but more than the aspiration and adjacent state averages.

The change ranks from 2011 to 2015 are lower than those for 2011 to 2014. The All Student rank for 2011-15 is 31<sup>st</sup>, compared to 28<sup>th</sup> for 2011-14, the Economically Disadvantaged rank for 2011-15 is 30<sup>th</sup>, compared to 28<sup>th</sup> for 2011-14, the Limited English Proficiency rank for 2011-15 is 20<sup>th</sup> compared to 19<sup>th</sup> for 2011-14, and the Students with Disabilities rank is 29<sup>th</sup> for 2011-15 compared to 24<sup>th</sup> for 2011-14.

	Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate															
	All Students				Economically Disadvantaged				Limited English Proficiency				Students with Disabilities			
	2011	2015	4-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2015	4-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2015	4-Year Change	Rank of Change	2011	2015	4-Year Change	Rank of Change
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>77.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>29</b>
All States	78.8	83.2	4.4	23.8	69.0	75.1	5.9	23.9	57.9	63.5	5.3	23.5	57.4	64.1	6.5	23.7
Aspiration	85.2	88.2	3.0	29.2	73.1	79.1	6.0	23.6	66.0	69.2	3.2	25.9	68.0	71.6	3.6	30.7
Adjacent	80.3	84.1	4.3	22.0	71.7	76.3	4.2	29.0	55.7	61.8	6.7	19.3	64.0	69.3	3.1	31.3
Overall Peers	77.6	82.1	4.8	20.9	66.8	73.2	6.4	21.0	59.0	64.3	4.7	23.3	57.3	63.3	6.4	21.4
Student Peers	79.5	83.7	4.2	23.2	68.8	74.9	6.1	22.6	59.3	64.0	4.7	23.0	60.1	65.7	5.6	24.7
Adult Peers	79.1	83.8	4.7	21.9	69.5	74.9	5.4	25.8	58.1	62.9	4.8	24.6	59.5	65.7	6.3	22.9
Distribution Peers	79.4	83.1	4.3	23.9	68.4	74.1	5.4	22.6	63.6	68.6	5.7	21.7	61.9	67.2	5.4	22.6

## Conclusions

To reach a higher target for on-time graduation, Kansas will have to raise rates for low income students (who account for close to 50 percent of the Kansas student population), LEP students (9.5 percent of Kansas students), and students with disabilities (14 percent).

Kansas has notably 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: 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading and Math Tests (NAEP)

### Key Facts

This data is the same as was featured in last year's Report Card, as the NAEP assessment is only administered every other year.

In 2015, 76 percent of the sample of Kansas students taking the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scored at the basic level or higher, averaging the four tests (Grade 4 and 8 Reading and Grade 4 and 8 Math), 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
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>20</b>
All States	74.8	24.1	63.5	23.8	86.3	22.3	35.7	24.3	21.7	23.1	49.6	24.2
Aspiration	79.7	9.2	65.4	18.3	89.1	7.9	42.2	9.0	23.6	17.7	54.6	10.3
Adjacent	76.3	19.5	64.8	18.5	87.5	16.0	36.0	23.8	21.5	24.0	50.5	20.5
Overall Peers	74.5	24.1	62.8	24.9	85.8	24.8	35.5	24.1	21.5	22.5	48.5	26.5
Student Peers	75.6	22.2	62.6	27.6	87.4	17.7	37.6	19.6	21.4	25.7	52.0	18.2
Adult Peers	75.5	22.2	63.5	23.8	86.6	20.0	36.4	22.5	21.8	21.8	49.9	23.2
Distribution Peers	74.7	22.8	64.3	19.4	85.3	27.1	34.6	26.8	21.9	20.2	46.4	33.2



## 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.

	NAEP 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
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>45</b>
All States	73.9	74.8	0.9	23.5	60.4	63.5	3.1	23.7	83.3	86.3	3.0	22.8
Aspiration	79.0	79.7	0.7	23.6	62.2	65.4	3.2	23.4	86.4	89.1	2.7	25.1
Adjacent	74.3	76.3	2.0	16.5	60.8	64.8	4.0	20.8	84.0	87.5	3.5	18.3
Overall Peers	74.5	74.5	0.0	26.3	60.5	62.8	2.3	26.8	83.4	85.8	2.4	26.2
Student Peers	75.0	75.6	0.6	23.4	58.7	62.6	3.9	21.1	84.2	87.4	3.2	20.9
Adult Peers	74.7	75.5	0.8	23.5	60.5	63.5	3.0	24.1	83.3	86.6	3.3	21.2
Distribution Peers	75.0	74.7	-0.3	28.0	63.3	64.3	1.0	30.8	83.6	85.3	1.8	30.0

	NAEP 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
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>
All States	33.5	35.7	2.3	22.5	18.6	21.7	3.1	22.8	43.4	49.6	6.2	24.1
Aspiration	40.2	42.2	2.0	24.1	20.3	23.6	3.2	21.1	48.9	54.6	5.7	10.3
Adjacent	33.3	36.0	2.8	17.5	18.8	21.5	2.8	24.3	42.8	50.5	7.8	20.5
Overall Peers	34.0	35.5	1.5	26.1	19.0	21.5	2.5	26.2	43.1	48.5	5.5	26.5
Student Peers	35.6	37.6	2.0	23.4	18.0	21.4	3.4	20.4	45.6	52.0	6.4	18.2
Adult Peers	34.2	36.4	2.2	22.6	19.0	21.8	2.8	23.9	43.5	49.9	6.5	23.2
Distribution Peers	33.1	34.6	1.4	26.3	20.2	21.9	1.7	30.0	41.6	46.4	4.9	33.2

## Conclusions

In most states, the percentage of students scoring at basic in fourth and eighth grade is a predictor 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 eight years later, adjusted cohort graduation rates were in the low 80 percent range.

Likewise, in 2006, approximately 22 percent of all students tested in most states scored at proficient, and in 2016, 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.

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 2016, 74 percent of Kansas graduates took the ACT test and 31 percent scored at the “college ready” benchmark on all four subjects (English, math, reading and science). The average across all states was 67.4 percent tested with 29.1 percent meeting 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 2016			SAT 2016		
	Pct Meeting All 4 Benchmarks	Percent of Graduates Tested	Pct Meeting All 4 Benchmarks Adjusted Rank	Mean Score Combined	Percent of Graduates Tested	Mean Score – Combined Adjusted Rank
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
All States	29.1	67.4		1600.0	39.8	
Aspiration	38.7	55.8	9.7	1648.1	44.7	8.7
Adjacent	24.0	92.5	18.5	1753.8	6.0	18.8
Overall Peers	29.3	65.7	25.2	1629.5	30.0	25.1
Student Peers	33.6	59.8	19.5	1618.2	41.6	18.6
Adult Peers	29.9	68.0	22.5	1604.2	41.1	23.5
Distribution Peers	26.0	78.0	24.8	1677.7	16.4	26.7

A higher percentage of Kansas students took the test than all comparison groups except adjacent states and distribution peers. Kansas also had a higher percent meeting the benchmarks than adjacent states and all peer groups except the student peers.

Aspiration states had a higher percent of students at benchmarks (38.7 percent compared to 31 percent in Kansas), but tested a much lower percentage of students (55.8 percent compared to 74 percent.)

Kansas had a mean SAT score of 1769, almost 170 points ahead of the all states average, but tested only 5 percent of students, compared to the average across states of 40 percent. 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 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 performed with its projected performance based on the percentage of students who took the test. On this adjusted ranking, Kansas was 12<sup>th</sup> on the ACT and 16<sup>th</sup> on the SAT.

Compared to last year, the percent of graduates tested remained the same in Kansas for both the ACT and SAT. Likewise, the adjusted ranks remained at 12<sup>th</sup> for the ACT and 16<sup>th</sup> for the SAT, despite slight changes in the percent meeting benchmarks on the ACT and the mean score combined on the SAT.

## Trends in ACT/SAT

The percentage of Kansas students who took the ACT and met all four benchmarks increased 6 percent since 2006 (the first-year benchmarks were used), slightly below the national average of 6.3 percent. Kansas increased more than all peer states except student peers.

However, the percentage of Kansas students tested dropped one point, while the all-states average of students taking the ACT rose 21.5 percent and peer groups increased between 10 and 27 percent.

	ACT											
	Percent Meeting All 4 College Ready Benchmarks				Percent of Graduates Tested				Percent at Benchmarks Rank Adjusted for Participation			
	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>
All States	22.8	29.1	6.3	24.6	45.9	67.4	21.5	25.0	25.5	25.2	-0.2	25.0
Aspiration	27.3	38.7	11.3	16.7	41.4	55.8	14.3	29.9	12.0	9.7	-2.3	26.8
Adjacent	21.5	24.0	2.5	30.0	79.5	92.5	13.0	31.5	21.5	18.5	-3.0	27.5
Overall Peers	24.0	29.3	5.3	26.7	51.0	65.7	14.7	28.2	20.5	25.2	4.7	18.1
Student Peers	25.7	33.6	7.9	23.1	40.4	59.8	19.4	23.9	17.8	19.5	1.7	24.1
Adult Peers	24.8	29.9	5.1	27.2	41.4	68.0	26.6	21.9	20.7	22.5	1.8	23.2
Distribution Peers	22.1	26.0	3.9	28.0	67.8	78.0	10.2	33.0	22.6	24.8	2.2	19.1

Kansas' *adjusted* ranking for the percent of students meeting all four benchmarks on the ACT increased one point over the past nine years. All peer state groups (except adjacent) had larger increases, between 1.4 and 4.7 percent.

	SAT											
	Mean Score Combined				Percent of Graduates Tested				Mean Score Combined Rank Adjusted for Participation			
	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank	2006	2016	2006-2016 Change	Change Rank
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>
All States	1604.1	1600.0	-4.1	25.4	38.4	39.8	1.4	25.5	25.5	25.5	0.0	24.6
Aspiration	1640.2	1648.1	7.9	22.0	47.3	44.7	-2.7	28.7	8.3	8.7	0.3	23.9
Adjacent	1717.0	1753.8	36.8	13.0	11.8	6.0	-5.8	36.8	16.5	18.8	2.3	27.0
Overall Peers	1647.9	1629.5	-18.4	26.2	26.7	30.0	3.3	28.5	22.9	25.1	2.2	26.0
Student Peers	1619.8	1618.2	-1.6	24.6	42.1	41.6	-0.5	25.6	17.9	18.6	0.7	23.7
Adult Peers	1604.8	1604.2	-0.5	23.9	39.8	41.1	1.2	26.2	24.0	23.5	-0.5	22.0
Distribution Peers	1715.2	1677.7	-37.6	30.7	9.8	16.4	6.6	26.2	20.0	26.7	6.7	31.6

The mean score for Kansas students on the SAT rose 31 points between 2006 and 2016, compared to a national mean score decrease of 4 points. The mean score of aspiration states increased almost 8 points and every other comparison group except adjacent states declined.

Kansas participation dropped 3 percent, from 8 percent to 5 percent, while the all states average rose from 38.4 percent to 40 percent. SAT participation in aspiration and adjacent states also dropped, but increased in other peer groups except student peers, which dropped slightly. Kansas' SAT adjusted rank for mean score dropped from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

The ranks for the change in percent meeting all four benchmarks and the change in percent of graduates tested on the ACT are the same for 2006-15 and 2006-16, but the rank for the change in the adjusted rank was 30<sup>th</sup> for 2006-15, compared to 22<sup>nd</sup> for 2006-16. The rank for change in mean score combined from 2006-16 is 14<sup>th</sup>, compared to 16<sup>th</sup> from 2006-15, but the rank for the change in percent of graduates tested is the same for both date ranges (31<sup>st</sup>). The rank for the change in the adjusted rank is 36<sup>th</sup> for 2006-16, compared to 35<sup>th</sup> for 2006-15.

## 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 average for all states and peer states. However, Kansas participation has been basically flat, while other states have generally increased participation. This results in an adjusted ranking that increased less than the average increase for the peer comparison groups.

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 in postsecondary education than most states, but other states have been improving at a faster pace.

## Appendix: Comparing Kansas: Aspiration States and Peer States

Data is provided for each state, plus the average for all 50 states, 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, Vermont, Wisconsin
- North Dakota was identified as an aspiration state in 2016.
- Wisconsin was not identified as an aspiration state in 2016.

**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, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.
- Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Virginia were not identified as student peers in 2016.

**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, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington.
- Idaho was identified as an adult peer in 2016.
- Montana and North Carolina were not identified as adult peers in 2016.

**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.
- Indiana was identified as a distribution peer in 2016.

**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, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin
- Montana and Rhode Island were not identified as overall peers in 2016.

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