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TO: Representative Kristey Williams
K-12 Education Budget Committee Chair

FROM: Brad Neuenswander, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

SUBJECT: Performance Accountability Report

Below is the information you requested for the K-12 Education Budget Committee.

For the second year, KSDE provides a Performance Accountability Report for all Public and Private Accredited systems in Kansas. This is a two-page report that reflects multiple data points in order to inform the public about performance about school and district performance as compared to the state average. This report can be found at <https://datacentral.ksde.org/accountability.aspx> and also includes the Longitudinal Achievement Reports and the Financial Accountability Reports.

Data included on the Performance Accountability Reports include: Student Demographics, Academic Performance, ACT Performance, Postsecondary Success Rates, Academically Prepared for Postsecondary Success, Graduation, Accreditation Status, Star Recognition, Expenditures Per Pupil, Attendance Rate, Chronic Absenteeism, and Dropout Rates.

While the COVID Pandemic prevented Kansas, and all states, from administering the 2020 state assessments, and attendance rates may vary due to the state legislature waiving in-person attendance for the last few months of the calendar school year, there is other data that is useful to schools and the broader community.

Graduation

Kansas saw an increase in graduation rates from 2015 – 2019 from 85.7% to 87.5%, followed by an increase in 2020 to 88.3%. Progress has been experienced for students in poverty, as determined by the Federal Food Service Assistance Program, where students who qualify for free lunches saw a graduation percentage increase of 4.5% as compared to paid lunch students at 1.9% during that same time period.

Postsecondary Success

This data measures the percent of graduates that, two years out of high school, are either still enrolled in a postsecondary institution, or have already completed a 2-year program, a 4-year program, or industry recognized certification. Since we are looking at two years after graduation, our most recent data reflects the graduating class of 2018.

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

For the class of 2018, 55.2% of the graduates met the postsecondary requirements as mentioned above. This continues to be a focus for school districts and we hope to see gains in the future as they continue to improve on implementing Individual Plans of Study for each student and their parents/guardians.

Academic Performance

As mentioned, Kansas was not able to administer the 2020 state assessments, but plan to do so in the spring of 2021. Since ACT is given multiple times throughout the year, data reflects that the graduating class had an average composite score of 20.4, down from 21.1 in 2019.

A reminder to this committee that the class of 2020 is the first class to have the **ACT exam** provided free due to legislation. We expected state average composite scores to decline if more students took the exam. As intended by the legislature, Kansas experienced a 10% increase in student participation from the class of 2019 (72% participation) to the class of 2020 at 82% participation. The legislature experienced great success in their goal of having more Kansas students take the ACT its first year of implementation.

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