



READY TO TEST:

What Our Schools Are Doing to Prepare Students for the 2014-2015 Kansas Assessments

Our Students Come First

While the annual Kansas Assessments are very important, we believe that they are only one piece of a much larger picture. As such, our teachers and administrators collect a variety of formal and informal achievement and growth data throughout the year, and we believe that the Kansas Assessments provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do. To help each student perform at his or her best on the Kansas Assessments, we work daily on enhancing content-specific and cross-curricular knowledge and skills.

"Next Generation" Assessment Features

The Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation (CETE), located at The University of Kansas, designs and administers our Kansas Assessments, also known as "Next Generation" assessments. To help students and teachers prepare, CETE offers practice tests and formative tests to allow students to practice answering questions that may involve more than just selecting from A, B, C, or D. Some "Next Generation" question-types include drag-and-drop features, written responses, and other technology enhanced items.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Technology

For the last four years, our teachers have worked very hard to transition to a higher-rigor curriculum aligned to recently adopted Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (KCCRS) in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Our teachers have also learned new skills during this transition to include more problem solving, critical thinking, technology, and student projects into their teaching, which is evident in student learning. In doing so, we believe these skills challenge students to experience success in new ways, which will be the same skills and outcomes emphasized on the Kansas Assessments.

Professional Development

Teachers and administrators in our schools receive continuous professional learning opportunities throughout the school year. Topics generally include curriculum alignment and classroom instruction strategies that lead to increased student success. Additionally, professional development sessions may involve technology integration, assessment updates, and other activities aimed at helping teachers and administrators better prepare our students for the future.