New KASB staffing report shows shift to classroom and student needs

The Kansas public school workforce has changed dramatically since 1998 to respond to the needs of students, the expectations of policy-makers and to improve the level of education in the state.

A new report by KASB shows the number of teachers and other classroom personnel has increased 16 percent over 17 years, while central office administrators have decreased 16 percent.

That means more instructional staff are available to provide more individualized attention to students, according to the report that analyzes staff and student data from 1998 to 2015.

The analysis, which provides both statewide and district-by-district figures, also shows that during this period student outcomes have increased with the staffing changes.

“Everything you would expect to improve student outcomes is where districts have targeted their dollars,” KASB Associate Executive Director for Advocacy Mark Tallman said.

The report found:

- Districts have added more than 9,600 employee positions since 1998, an increase of more than 16 percent over 17 years.
- Of the 9,600 school district positions added, 7,375 were teachers or paraprofessionals; and nearly 1,000 positions have been in instructional support or student support.
- Over this same period, general administration positions were reduced by 16 percent. This includes superintendents, assistant and associate superintendents, administrative assistants and clerical staff.
- The ratio of students to instructional staff has decreased from approximately 10.6 students per staff member in 1998 to 9 students per staff member in 2015.
- The number of at-risk students during the period increased from about one-third of all students to one-half. Studies show these students generally require more services to be successful; however, student performance has increased significantly based on increases in reading and math proficiency, the graduation rate and preparation for college indicators.

Find the report and district breakdown at www.kasb.org/wcm/_NB/15/NB0518.aspx

For more information on the KASB report, please contact KASB Research Specialist Ted Carter or Communications Specialist Scott Rothschild at 785-273-3600.
John Heim—I’m From Kansas: Once upon a time...

With our oldest daughter, the nickname “Princess” is more than a moniker, it’s a way of life. Life with her is a constant reminder of the story of the Princess and the Pea, as small issues can quickly become big ones. She is beautiful, bright, graceful, and majestic, but has a flair for the dramatic.

So when she started texting from Manhattan about water up to her waist and cars floating down the street, her mom and I chuckled and went to sleep. Manhattanites know the rest of this story: weather reports about 5 inches of rain in an hour, newspaper pictures of students kayaking to class, and hilarious tweets from KSU President Kirk Schulz confirmed our Princess’ story.

The story ends there, because most people would not draw the conclusion from this story that all of Kansas was underwater because one community was hit with heavy rain. One would only have to look out their door or window to confirm or deny that all of Kansas was flooded.

Bills under consideration in wrap-up session

During the wrap-up session, the Legislature continued to debate budget and tax issues and had advanced several bills that will impact school districts.

No final action had been taken on the measures as of press time for KASB School Board Review. We urge school officials to follow KASB tweets on Twitter @KASBTopeka and KASB’s daily News Briefs to receive up-to-date information about developments in the Legislature.

Legislative work had neared completion on new restrictions and requirements for the use of seclusion and restraint of students. In addition, the measure establishes a special committee of educators, advocates and parents to further study the issue.

The Kansas Legislative Research Department description of the bill can be seen at www.kslegislature.org/li/b2015_16/measures/documents/ccrb_hb2170_01_0000.pdf.

The Legislature had also prepared extensive changes to working after retirement under the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.


And a session-long effort to move school board elections to the fall of odd-numbered years remained alive.


...KASB Board continued from page 1

Past President Frank Henderson, Seaman USD 345, was elected this spring to take Ms. Lair’s spot on the NSBA board.

Also at the June meeting, KASB President-Elect Don Shimkus, Oxford USD 358, will assume the President's position, and Rod Stewart, Washington County USD 108, moves to immediate Past-President. Amy Martin, Olathe USD 233, becomes President-Elect.

KASB staff members Mark Tallman, Donna Whiteman, Tom Krebs, Pam Crossland, David Shriver, Debbie Dyche and John Heim will be honored at the Employee Recognition Dinner for their years of service to the association. They have a total of 95 years of combined service to the association. This year’s dinner is at the Kansas Children’s Discovery Center. It offers staff and the board the opportunity to check out this great Topeka feature where many of our schools have taken students on field trips.
KASB Leadership Class to study community engagement and building a shared vision

KASB’s 2015-16 Leadership for Tomorrow program kicks off May 28 and 29 with a visit to Salina and Abilene. This will be the first session for the new 24-member class.

Leadership for Tomorrow is in its eleventh year. Participants are chosen through an application process and include board of education members and administrators. Through five-two-day sessions, the class explores a broad spectrum of issues and concerns relating to public education and student achievement.

The class will meet in Salina May 28 for a tour of the new Salina West Education Center and a demonstration of a new building security system similar to the systems to be installed as part of Salina’s 2014 bond election plan. Bill Hall, Salina USD 305 superintendent (LFT Class of 08-09), will share thoughts on the community’s involvement in the bond election process and talk about the role of the leader in developing a shared commitment to outcomes that matter.

The class will also participate in a data discovery activity and begin to develop an understanding of the similarities and differences between the districts represented in the class. The day ends with homework and a class dinner.

Day two will find the class in Abilene, hosted by Dr. Denise Guy, superintendent (LFT Class of 14-15). Dr. Guy will discuss the planning used in their successful 2014 bond election process and how they united their community around a common vision for the future of Abilene USD 435. The class will also participate in a guided discussion on engaging local leaders and give reports on their homework assignments.

Class members include:
- Gail Billman, Board of Education, Labette County USD 506
- Shawn Cardin, Board of Education, Central Heights USD 258
- Cheryl Cook-Keim, Superintendent, Deerfield USD 216
- Tim Cruz, Board of Education, Garden City USD 457
- Aron Dody, Superintendent, North Lyon County USD 251
- Lacee Sell, Board of Education, Chapman USD 433
- Phil Wilson, Building Principal, Washington County USD 108 (Superintendent, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Ron Langston, Board of Education, Jeff Co Public Schools USD 265
- Steve Lilly, Superintendent, McLouth USD 342
- Matt Meek, Assistant Superintendent, Paola USD 368
- Stuart Moeckel, Building Principal, Victoria USD 432
- Bill Mullins, Superintendent, Marysville USD 364
- Gregg Noel, Board of Education, Abilene USD 435
- Lyn Rantz, Superintendent, Tonganoxie USD 464
- Ty Rhodes, Building Principal, Hesston USD 460
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 507
- Larry Roth, Assistant Superintendent, Wellington USD 353 (Superintendent, Sedgwick USD 439 as of July 1, 2015)
- Judy Bell, Building Principal, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Rhonda Wince, Board of Education, McPherson USD 418
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 506
- Paul Larkin, Superintendent, Liberal USD 480
- Steve Lilly, Superintendent, McLouth USD 342
- Matt Meek, Assistant Superintendent, Paola USD 368
- Stuart Moeckel, Building Principal, Victoria USD 432
- Bill Mullins, Superintendent, Marysville USD 364
- Gregg Noel, Board of Education, Abilene USD 435
- Lyn Rantz, Superintendent, Tonganoxie USD 464
- Ty Rhodes, Building Principal, Hesston USD 460
- Jeff Rollins, Board of Education, Satanta USD 507
- Larry Roth, Assistant Superintendent, Wellington USD 353 (Superintendent, Sedgwick USD 439 as of July 1, 2015)
- Lacee Sell, Superintendent, Chapman USD 473
- Jayson Strickland, Assistant Superintendent, Kansas City Kansas USD 500
- Phil Wilson, Building Principal, Washington County USD 108 (Superintendent, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Rhonda Wince, Board of Education, McPherson USD 418
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 506
- Ron Langston, Board of Education, Jeff Co Public Schools USD 265
- Steve Lilly, Superintendent, McLouth USD 342
- Matt Meek, Assistant Superintendent, Paola USD 368
- Stuart Moeckel, Building Principal, Victoria USD 432
- Bill Mullins, Superintendent, Marysville USD 364
- Gregg Noel, Board of Education, Abilene USD 435
- Lyn Rantz, Superintendent, Tonganoxie USD 464
- Ty Rhodes, Building Principal, Hesston USD 460
- Jeff Rollins, Board of Education, Satanta USD 507
- Larry Roth, Assistant Superintendent, Wellington USD 353 (Superintendent, Sedgwick USD 439 as of July 1, 2015)
- Lacee Sell, Superintendent, Chapman USD 473
- Jayson Strickland, Assistant Superintendent, Kansas City Kansas USD 500
- Phil Wilson, Building Principal, Washington County USD 108 (Superintendent, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Rhonda Wince, Board of Education, McPherson USD 418
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 506
- Paul Larkin, Superintendent, Liberal USD 480
- Steve Lilly, Superintendent, McLouth USD 342
- Matt Meek, Assistant Superintendent, Paola USD 368
- Stuart Moeckel, Building Principal, Victoria USD 432
- Bill Mullins, Superintendent, Marysville USD 364
- Gregg Noel, Board of Education, Abilene USD 435
- Lyn Rantz, Superintendent, Tonganoxie USD 464
- Ty Rhodes, Building Principal, Hesston USD 460
- Jeff Rollins, Board of Education, Satanta USD 507
- Larry Roth, Assistant Superintendent, Wellington USD 353 (Superintendent, Sedgwick USD 439 as of July 1, 2015)
- Lacee Sell, Superintendent, Chapman USD 473
- Jayson Strickland, Assistant Superintendent, Kansas City Kansas USD 500
- Phil Wilson, Building Principal, Washington County USD 108 (Superintendent, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Rhonda Wince, Board of Education, McPherson USD 418
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 506
- Ron Langston, Board of Education, Jeff Co Public Schools USD 265
- Steve Lilly, Superintendent, McLouth USD 342
- Matt Meek, Assistant Superintendent, Paola USD 368
- Stuart Moeckel, Building Principal, Victoria USD 432
- Bill Mullins, Superintendent, Marysville USD 364
- Gregg Noel, Board of Education, Abilene USD 435
- Lyn Rantz, Superintendent, Tonganoxie USD 464
- Ty Rhodes, Building Principal, Hesston USD 460
- Jeff Rollins, Board of Education, Satanta USD 507
- Larry Roth, Assistant Superintendent, Wellington USD 353 (Superintendent, Sedgwick USD 439 as of July 1, 2015)
- Lacee Sell, Superintendent, Chapman USD 473
- Jayson Strickland, Assistant Superintendent, Kansas City Kansas USD 500
- Phil Wilson, Building Principal, Washington County USD 108 (Superintendent, Norton USD 211 as of July 1, 2015)
- Rhonda Wince, Board of Education, McPherson USD 418
- John Wyrick, Superintendent, Labette County USD 506

KASB issues Call for Presentations

We are excited to announce Applications to Present are being sought for Breakout Sessions at the KASB Convention on Sat., Dec. 5, in Wichita.

KASB needs your expertise and experience to create exceptional learning experiences throughout the conference. To this end, we are seeking clinic session presentation proposals from school districts, school board members, thought leaders and like-minded organizations.

KASB is proud to provide the highest quality educational leadership for boards of education in Kansas. The Annual Conference is the association’s flagship event - an intensive learning and networking experience bringing together hundreds of board of education members, school district leaders and content experts. The goal is to inform and equip school board members so they may govern and lead their districts effectively.

The submission deadline is Friday, July 3, 2015. Please contact Andrea Hartzell at ahartzell@kasb.org or 800.432.2471.

New and veteran board members, administrators go to school on school board service; Topeka workshops moves to new

More than 370 newly elected school board members, experienced mentors and superintendents attended the first five KASB Board Member Workshops. More than 120 are scheduled to attend two more sessions in Hays and Topeka.

The program covers board powers and governance; legal responsibilities such as open meetings and employee relations; and the respective roles of board and administration.

“It is an exciting time for new board members as they prepare to take office,” said KASB Executive Director Dr. John Hersh. “These meetings are a chance to learn from KASB staff experts and mentor board members.”

School leaders can still attend board member workshops in Hays on May 30 and Topeka June 20.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to growing numbers, the Topeka session will now be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel’s Maner Conference Center, Shawnee Room.
Kansas school board members, administrators and building leaders are invited to attend KASB’s 2015 summer statewide advocacy tour meetings to learn more about the top issues facing Kansas education and help shape KASB’s advocacy positions.

The two-hour advocacy tour meetings will focus on two major issues: the development of a school accountability system, including changes in accreditation and student assessment; and determining key factors in the state’s school funding system. Participants will also be invited to recommend other issues for KASB’s legislative priorities and other policy positions.