In response to concerns over the amount of time Kansas students spend on state tests, the Kansas State Department of Education has pared down the 2016-17 testing “footprint” by 60 percent. That’s good news not only for students and teachers, but also for board members who field complaints from parents and others.

“We had lots of conversations with superintendents, principals, teachers and advocacy groups during the testing window last year,” said KSDE Assistant Director of Assessments & Accountability Beth Fultz. “They were concerned that students were spending a lot of time out of class taking tests, so we asked ourselves what would be a more efficient and useful way to go about administering the state assessments.”

...continued on page 7

Shimkus reflects on year as KASB President

As I look back on my year as President of KASB, I am happy to see the progress we have made. When I started, I challenged everyone to have their “water cooler talk” be about public schools. You all took up that challenge and succeeded — little did I dream that Kansas public education would be one of the most talked about subjects of the year!

In the fall, the State Board of Education unveiled “Kansans Can,” its new vision for education where “Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.” I’m encouraged by the drive we now share to achieve this profound goal.

I’m also encouraged by everyone who is standing up for public education. Your advocacy efforts have energized thousands of parents, students, teachers and community members in their efforts to let our elected representatives know just how important public education is to them, their families and their communities.

As I issued a challenge upon arrival, I issue another upon departure: In this election year, we have a record number of first-time candidates running for seats in our Legislature. Many of them are running because of their concerns about the future of public schools in Kansas. Please encourage everyone you can to register to vote and support candidates who share your views about public education.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to serve you and the kids of Kansas. It has been an honor and a privilege that I will treasure always.

— Don Shimkus is a member of the Oxford USD 358 school board and served as KASB president from July 2015 through June 2016.
KASB seeks candidates for association President

KASB is seeking candidates for the office of KASB President. The position requires a three-year commitment to serve on the KASB Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Candidates must be serving on a member school board. The deadline for application is Wednesday, August 31.

The Association depends on engaged, active participation by members to guide its work on behalf of the children of Kansas. The successful candidate for president will serve a six month term, as KASB President-Elect Designee, beginning with their election at the 2016 KASB Delegate Assembly in December. In July 2017, the individual will move into the office of KASB President-Elect. This position will spend the next year as President and the third year as Past President.

The KASB Nominating Committee will meet September 10 to interview and endorse candidates. The Committee’s recommendation will then be shared with the general membership of KASB and formally presented to the KASB Delegate Assembly on December 4. Delegates will elect the new president-elect designee during that time.

Those interested in applying are encouraged to contact current members of the KASB executive committee or past KASB president with questions. KASB members are also asked to encourage applications from fellow board members who they believe possess the necessary vision and commitment to serve as Association president.

An online pdf application with additional information can be found at kasb.org/nominating. ~Carol Pitts, cpitts@kasb.org

Lead your school to greater student success by focusing attention, energy and talent where it matters most. The McREL Balanced Leadership training includes six interactive, day-long sessions centered on leadership research developed by McREL.

Three sites are scheduled for 2016-2017.
Topeka - First Session Aug. 30, 2016
Salina - First Session Aug. 31, 2016
Fredonia - First Session Sept. 1, 2016

Contact KASB for details.
Brian Jordan
bjordan@kasb.org
KASB Assistant Executive Director Leadership Services
785.273.3600
Candidate endorsement tool now available online

KASB has developed a tool to help identify candidates for the Kansas State Legislature by school district and a variety of other factors. This tool also contains information about which candidates have been endorsed by organizations that typically participate in the education discussions at the Capitol.

Locating the Tool

To find the tool, you can go to kasbresearch.org and click on “Reports,” then “Interactive,” and look for the item on the page called “Candidates and Endorsements.” If you’d like to access the tool directly, the link is www.kasb.org/endorsementtool.

Searching by District

If you would like to see all candidates whose legislative districts overlap a particular School District’s boundaries, use the dropdown menus on the Overview tab to select the district (or districts) you are interested in.

You can also select a particular KASB Region, KSHSAA Class, KNEA Uniserv, or High School League.

The selection you make will carry over to the Senate Map, Senate List, House Map, and House List tabs.

Senate Map

The Senate Map tab shows School District boundaries shaded based on the senate districts. In many cases, multiple senate districts have areas within the same district, which is evidenced by overlapping shading.

Hovering over an area of the map will show you information on the School District the cursor is over, along with how many Senate Districts, Senate Candidates, House Districts, and House Candidates would be associated with that School District.

On the Senate Map tab, you are able to filter by USD, Senate Candidate (Name), Senate District, Political Party, Candidates involved in the Primaries, and by the endorsements of each of the following groups:

- **KNEA**: The Kansas National Education Association presented their list of Candidate Recommendations for August Primary on June 28th.
- **Kansas Chamber**: The Kansas Chamber of Commerce’s Political Action Committee released its endorsement for the August Primary on June 27th.
- **Mainstream Coalition**: The Kansas Chamber of Commerce’s Political Action Committee released its list of endorsements for the August Primary on June 30th.
- **Game on for Kansas Schools**: Game on for Kansas Schools does not officially endorse candidates, but has provided information about which primary candidates they believe are supportive of public education.
- **Kansas Families for Education**: Kansas Families for Education’s Political Action Committee released it’s list of endorsements for the August Primary on July 1st.

Any filters set on this tab will be carried over to the Senate List tab.

House Map

The House Map tab shows School District boundaries shaded based on the house districts. In many cases, multiple house districts have areas within the same district, which is evidenced by overlapping shading.

Hovering over an area of the map will show you information on the School District the cursor is over, along with how many Senate Districts, Senate Candidates, House Districts, and House Candidates would be associated with that School District.

On the House Map tab, you are able to filter by USD, House Candidate (Name), House District, Political Party, Candidates involved in the Primaries, and the endorsements of the five organizations mentioned before.

Any filters set on this tab will be carried over to the House List tab.

House List

The House List tab shows the candidates for the Kansas House of Representatives, listing their names and the endorsement information listed above.

Data on the House List tab can be filtered by the same items listed under the House Map, and as noted before, any filters selected or changed here will be reflected on the House Map tab.

Hovering over the last column in the House List will show you all the information in the tool for the candidate in question.

Notes

The Notes tab shows information on the sources of the data in the tool.

If you have questions about the tool, please contact research@kasb.org.
Legislative field includes many public school leaders

Stop attacking Kansas schools.

That seems to be a major theme of the current election cycle in which dozens of educators and public school advocates are pounding the pavement and knocking on doors to speak with potential voters.

This includes school board members, former members, current and former administrators, teachers, retired teachers and parents participating in legislative races across the state.

Judith Deedy, who is executive director of the pro public school group, Game On Kansas, said the state’s constant budget problems and the recent fight between legislative leaders and the Kansas Supreme Court have raised awareness about how the state’s fiscal condition and political leanings of the Legislature are threatening public schools.

“More people have realized there are many in Topeka who won’t listen to education people,” Deedy said. “They have said, ‘Since my legislator won’t listen to me, I will run for the Legislature.'”

Gov. Sam Brownback and the current Republican leadership in the Legislature have often been at odds with Kansas public schools.

The governor’s signature policy — the income tax cuts of 2012 and 2013 — is on a collision course with school funding, which makes up half the state budget.

In 2014, Brownback and his allies repealed the teacher due process system and approved using public dollars for private schools.

In 2015, Brownback cut $50 million from a promised increase and then cemented that lowered level of funding in the two-year block grants. Also in 2015, Brownback signed into law a bill that moved school board elections to the fall despite the opposition from an overwhelming number of school boards.

And this past legislative session featured more fights — the largest being a school finance battle in which the Kansas Supreme Court forced Brownback and the Legislature in a special session to fix equity funding in public schools.

The court has now taken up the issue of school funding adequacy, which could eventually require hundreds of millions of more dollars. And the Legislature, next year, is scheduled to approve a new school finance system to replace the temporary block grants.

So, while Brownback is not on the ballot, his supporters and detractors have lined up to oppose each other.

In some races, a candidate associated with schools is running against an incumbent who has supported Brownback’s agenda on tax cuts and other policies.

For example, in House District 42, Jim Karleskint, a former Holton school superintendent, faces state Rep. Connie O’Brien in the GOP primary.

Karleskint said the state’s financial crisis is due to Brownback’s tax policies. O’Brien, who voted in favor of the tax cuts, said those cuts are helping the economy.

And in a last-minute development before the June 1 candidate filing deadline, several of the Brownback-backed senators who won in 2012, decided not to stand for re-election.

Stafford USD 349 Superintendent Mary Jo Taylor is running for the state Senate because, she said, “many things in Kansas feel off, counterintuitive.”

Taylor faces former state senator Larry Salmons for the Republican Party nomination on Aug. 2 in Senate District 33 in western Kansas. The current state senator, Mitch Holmes, is one of those Brownback supporters who decided not to seek re-election and voiced criticism of school boards in his farewell to the Senate.

Taylor has criticized Brownback’s tax policies, saying it is unfair many business owners pay no state income taxes while their employees do. She also is upset over the increased state sales tax and an attitude from state leaders she says attempts to marginalize teachers.

In the GOP primary in Senate District 14, Bruce Givens, a longtime educator and assistant director of the Butler County Special Education Cooperative, is trying tooust incumbent Forrest Knox of Altoona. The winner will face the winner of the Democratic Primary, either Carl Shay Jr. or Mark Pringle. Shay is vice president of the Fredonia school board.

Knox has said there is a coordinated effort by school superintendents to oust him and other like-minded legislators. Givens said he doesn’t know if there is a coordinated effort, but that Knox has not been a supporter of public education.

During the past session, Knox proposed a bill that would have paid foster families who homeschool or send their children to private school. School advocates, such as KASB, opposed the measure, saying it included no accountability for academic results of the student.

There are hotly contested races across the state where the major issue is school funding. Among the many are Don Shimkus, a member of the Oxford USD 358 school board and past president of KASB, who is running for Senate District 32 in south-central Kansas and Lynn Rogers, a member of the Wichita USD 259 school board who is running for Senate District 25 in Wichita. Shimkus and Rogers are running for seats being vacated by Steve Abrams and Michael O’Donnell, respectively, who are two

---continued on page 7---

**ELECTION DEADLINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>First day advance ballots are mailed. In person advance voting may begin. Contact your county election officer to find out when and where.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>Noon deadline to cast advance voting ballots in person in office of County Election Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>Primary Election; Advance voting ballots must be received in office of County Election Officer by close of polls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Last day to register to vote in general election.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>First day advance ballots are mailed. In person advance voting may begin. Contact your county election office to find out when and where.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>Deadline for voters to apply for advance voting ballots to be mailed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>Noon deadline to cast advance voting ballots in person in office of county election office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>General Election; Advance voting ballots must be received in office of County Election Officer by close of polls.</td>
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New report shows shift to college jobs and earnings; Kansas school districts respond to data findings

A new national report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (Georgetown Center) found that 99 percent of job growth in the United States since the Great Recession has gone to workers with at least some postsecondary education.

The report, “America’s Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-Nots,” says that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million went to workers with a more than a high school education and 8.4 million went to workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher, while employment of workers with a high school diploma or less only grew by 80,000 jobs in the recovery.

“The modern economy continues to leave Americans without a college education behind,” said Anthony P. Carnevale, director of the Georgetown Center and lead author of the report. In the report, “college” refers to any postsecondary education, including technical certificates and two-year associate’s degree.

Kansas Association of School Boards spokesperson Mark Tallman says Kansas schools have been responding to this trend. “According to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 60.1 percent of Kansans aged 18-24 have some college education, including any postsecondary hours, a technical education certificate, an associate’s degree or higher; up from 51.9 percent in 2005. In 2014 Kansas ranked seventh in the nation in percentage of 18-24-year-olds participating in postsecondary education.”

The percent of 18-24-year-old Kansans who have completed a four year degree rose from 9.7 percent in 2005 to 10.3 percent in 2014. “Keep in mind that only about one-third of Kansas in that six-year age group - 23 and 24-year-olds - could earn a four-year degree within that time period,” said Tallman. “This means the percent of Kansas earning a four-year degree within six years of graduation rose from about 29 percent to over 34 percent. Kansas ranked 19th nationally in the percent of 18-24-year-olds with a four-year degree.”

However, even with these improvements, Tallman says Kansas will still struggle to meet previous projections from the Georgetown Center, which said by 2020 about 71 percent of Kansas jobs will require some training beyond college and 35 percent will require a four-year degree or higher.

Improving the rates of high school graduation and postsecondary participation and completion has been a key focus of the Kansas State Board of Education’s “Kansans Can” initiative. A second focus has been working with each student to develop an individual plan of study based on career interests.

Kansas Commissioner of Education, Dr. Randy Watson noted that the Kansas State Board of Education was already deeply engaged in increasing the percent of students with some type of post secondary credential. “The State Board of Education vision for education - ‘Kansas Will Lead the World in the Success of Each Student’, drives their belief that all students should be moving toward completing some type of education beyond high school.”

The recession and recovery have hastened a long-term change in the composition of the American workforce. In 2016, for the first time, workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher are a larger proportion of the workforce (36 percent) than those with a high school diploma or less (34 percent). Workers with more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree, who are typically employed in middle-skill occupations, comprise the remaining 30 percent of the workforce.

Nationally, the report found that workers with at least some postsecondary education now make up 65 percent of the total employment, and works with a four-year degree now earn 57 percent of all wages.

KASB research of U.S. Census Bureau data shows that 64 percent of Kansans over age 24 have some postsecondary education, but earn 73 percent of wages; and 32 percent of Kansans over 24 have a four-year degree and earn 44 percent of all wages in the state.

...continued on page 6
Occupational and industry shifts have been major drivers of change in the labor market. Production industries, such as manufacturing, construction and natural resources, shifted from employing nearly half of the workforce in 1947 to only 19 percent in 2016. On the other hand, industries that employ managerial and professional workers such as healthcare, business, financial, education and government services accounted for 28 percent of the workforce in 1947 and have grown to encompass 46 percent of the workforce today.

The largest occupational group in the American economy, routine office and administrative support jobs, lost 1.4 million jobs during the recession and recovery, primarily because of automation and the rise in digital information storage. These occupations were a primary source of jobs for workers with a high school diploma or less, in many cases, so the decline of these jobs has hit less-educated workers particularly hard.

Other key report findings include the following.

- In the recovery, graduate degree holders gained 3.8 million jobs, bachelor’s degree holders gained 4.6 million jobs, and Associate’s degree holders (and those with some college education) gained over 3 million jobs, compared to workers with a high school diploma or less, who added only 80,000 jobs.

- About 5.8 million high-skill jobs in the recovery are going to workers with a B.A. or higher, whereas low skill jobs are the only area of growth for workers with a high school diploma or less.

- Among industries, consulting and business services added the largest number of jobs in the recovery (2.5 million), while manufacturing added the second most (1.7 million). Manufacturing, however, still has 1 million fewer jobs than it did before the recession began. Construction added 834,000 jobs during recovery, but is still 1.6 million jobs short of its pre-recession employment — the largest gap among all industries.

- Management added the largest number of jobs of any occupation since the recession began (1.6 million), while healthcare professional and technical occupations added the second most jobs (1.5 million).

The full report, “America’s Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-Nots,” can be accessed at: https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/americas-divided-recovery/. –KASB Staff, email@kasb.org
The Kansas Association of School Boards is seeking proposals for breakout sessions for the KASB 99th Annual Conference. The 45-minute breakout sessions will be scheduled for Sat., Dec. 3, 2016 in Wichita, Kansas. Any KASB member organization can submit a proposal.

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. Presenting at KASB’s Annual Conference is the ideal way to share your district’s story while focusing on best practices, effective strategies and helping fellow educators deepen their understanding of emerging issues in education.

The KASB Annual Conference is scheduled for Dec. 2, 3 and 4 in Wichita, Kansas. KASB has identified five key topic strands for this year’s Breakout Sessions.

Additional details regarding the five strands can be found in the next column or the Call for Presentations form available online at www.kasb.org/CFP. The deadline for submitting a proposal is August 19, 2016.

Education officials shortening state tests continued from page 1

State assessments are required by law and were used under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) to help determine school district accreditation. NCLB’s high-stakes focus on testing is being retooled under its successor, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). It’s likely state test results will also play a smaller role in new accreditation procedures under ESSA.

“The spring summative tests in English Language Arts and math, which had been given over the course of four class periods, will now take place over two class periods from mid-March to April,” Fultz said. “We’re going to try really hard to get results back to districts in May; if not then, they’ll be available by the summer.”

The summative tests, which measure student learning relative to content standards, will be administered more efficiently to make better use of class time. For example, rather than sitting for two testing sessions that feature 15 questions each, students may sit for one session that covers the 30 questions. “If we’re going to take a whole class period for a test, you should have enough items to make the time worthwhile,” Fultz said. “This streamlined approach should give us the information we need.”

Performance tasks, which give a snapshot of student progress and are hand-graded, will be removed from the summative assessment and will be available this September as interim assessments. Teachers can administer those tests on their own timeline. The assessments will be locally scored to offer immediate results.

KSDE will share more information on the new footprint after school starts in August. “We’ve tried very hard to be responsive to concerns, and we’re optimistic for the next testing window that things will go well,” Fultz said. ~Leah Filter, lfilter@kasb.org

Advocacy
Stakeholder engagement is critical to maintaining quality schools in our communities. These sessions will emphasize how communities and school districts are advocating for their students’ education at the local, state, and/or federal level. Presenters will share strategies and structures they have developed or used to create a strong voice for their students.

Aligning the System to “Kansans Can” Vision
The Kansas State Board of Education adopted a new vision for Kansas schools based on feedback from across the state. The vision established six outcomes or measures. These sessions will provide opportunities for presenters to share how they have aligned their system to supporting this new vision.

Finding Efficiencies While Still Being Effective
As resources for school districts have become tighter, districts have had to innovate and look at the distribution of resources differently. These sessions will highlight the work districts have done to become more efficient, while still being effective at improving student success.

Policy/Legal
The education community must continue to evolve and react to societal trends and pressures that can potentially impact the equality of education offered to our students. These sessions offer attendees the latest guidance and information on legal issues and policy matters related to recent events in the education community.

Building a District Vision
Highly effective school districts have a common direction and vision that unites the work of all the schools, staff, students, and patrons of that district. These sessions provide insights into how districts have developed and aligned the work of the school district around a common vision and direction from the board table, to the classroom, to mainstreet. ~KASB Staff, email@kasb.org

2016 Convention Call for Presentations now open

Brownback-backed Republicans who decided not to seek re-election.

Brownback and his supporters say school funding is at a record level, even though it hasn’t kept up with inflation and operating expenditures have been flat for several years. And as the state budget situation worsens, Brownback has blamed schools for the problem.

Kansas recently dropped from 27th to 29th in the nation in per pupil spending. While Kansas ranks high among states in a wide spectrum of student measures, recent results have raised concerns that Kansas is not keeping pace with other states.

Voters and candidates are voicing concern that Kansas public schools are in danger, Deedy said.

“They are saying, ‘We love our public schools. Why am I hearing about needs not being met, or why is my legislator saying bad things about public schools?’,” said Deedy. ~Scott Rothschild, srothschild@kasb.org

Legislative field continued from page 4

KASB Annual Conference
SERVING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS, INSPIRING STUDENT SUCCESS PAGE 7
Upcoming Workshops

*Season Pass Eligible

*New Clerks July 21 Topeka
*Efficiency and Operations July 21 Topeka
Principal Evaluation July 26 Greenbush Girard
*New Clerks July 27 Hays
*Student Discipline July 27 Topeka
Principal Evaluation July 29 Hays
*Board Leadership Aug 2 Hays
Principal Evaluation Aug 3 Topeka
*Board Leadership Aug 4 Topeka
*Superintendent Evaluation Aug 23 Topeka
Balanced Leadership Session 1 Aug 30 Topeka
Balanced Leadership Session 1 Aug 31 Salina
Balanced Leadership Session 1 Sept 1 Fredonia
*Superintendent Evaluation Sept 8 Oakley

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