



*Embargoed for release until 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 26, 2016*

## 2016 State Education Report Card

# Executive Summary: Overall Rankings and School Funding

Kansas ranked 10th in the nation in education performance, based on 15 national indicators. These indicators include 18 to 24-year-old educational attainment, high school graduation rates and national assessments. These indicators reflect the “Rose Capacities” identified by the Kansas Supreme Court as the basis to measure constitutionally suitable funding, including “training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields so as to enable each child to choose and pursue life work intelligently,” and “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.”

KASB averaged the 15 achievement ranks for each state, and then ranked each state by that average. Based on the latest data, Kansas ranked 10th in the nation. Because there are more indicators within some categories, the indicators were weighted to equalize their impacts. Under this system, Kansas also ranked 10th.

KASB identified those states which rank higher than Kansas as “aspiration states.” Under the weighted ranking (in contrast to the unweighted ranks), Illinois and Connecticut moved ahead of Kansas, and Minnesota and Indiana dropped below Kansas. Other states are the same, weighted or unweighted. The table below shows the top 20 weighted states.

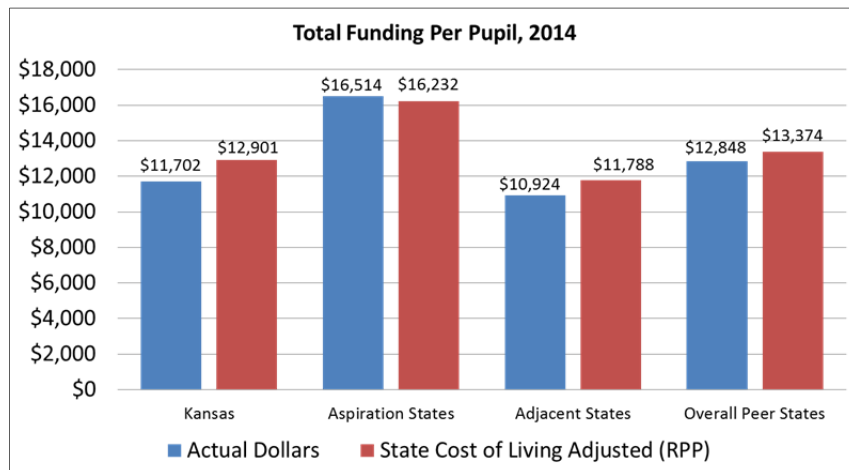
Overall Outcome Ranks and Aspiration States									
Rank of Average Ranks (Weighted)		Total Revenue Per Pupil, 2014				Average Funding and Change, 2008-14			
		Actual Dollars	U.S. Rank	Adjusted for State Living Costs	Adjusted U.S. Rank	Average Annual Per Pupil, 2008-14	Rank of Average Funding	Percent Change in Funding	Rank in Funding Change
1	<b>New Hampshire</b>	\$15,919	11	\$15,132	13	\$14,654	12	19.2	5
2	<b>Massachusetts</b>	\$17,896	7	\$16,710	9	\$16,618	7	15.6	10
3	<b>New Jersey</b>	\$20,531	3	\$17,931	6	\$19,287	2	11.2	19
4	<b>Iowa</b>	\$12,346	24	\$13,673	21	\$11,716	26	13.0	12
5	<b>Nebraska</b>	\$12,773	20	\$14,099	17	\$12,263	21	12.4	16
6	<b>Vermont</b>	\$19,009	6	\$18,783	4	\$17,579	6	16.9	8
7	<b>Illinois</b>	\$14,756	14	\$14,654	15	\$13,459	15	25.5	2
8	<b>North Dakota</b>	\$14,817	13	\$16,193	10	\$12,986	18	32.4	1
9	<b>Connecticut</b>	\$20,577	2	\$18,912	3	\$18,374	4	24.0	3
10	<b>Kansas</b>	<b>\$11,702</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$12,901</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>\$11,619</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>38</b>
11	Wisconsin	\$12,716	21	\$13,615	23	\$12,604	19	5.8	29
12	Minnesota	\$13,693	18	\$14,030	19	\$13,044	17	12.0	17
13	Maine	\$14,604	15	\$15,041	14	\$13,844	14	12.9	13
14	Missouri	\$11,382	32	\$12,731	27	\$10,860	34	10.6	21
16	Kentucky	\$10,523	38	\$11,864	31	\$10,322	39	5.6	31
16	Virginia	\$11,847	28	\$11,546	36	\$11,818	25	0.3	41
17	Pennsylvania	\$17,223	8	\$17,538	7	\$15,915	8	17.7	7
18	Rhode Island	\$16,948	9	\$17,171	8	\$15,885	9	12.7	14
19	Indiana	\$12,064	26	\$13,199	24	\$12,016	24	12.7	15
20	Colorado	\$10,538	37	\$10,331	41	\$10,322	38	4.8	33

## Key Findings Regarding Funding

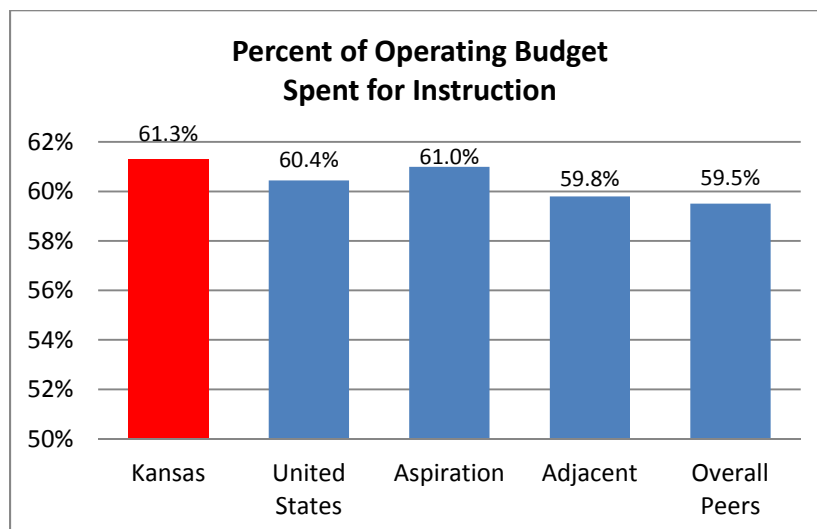
In 2014, the most recent year for comparable national data, Kansas ranked 29th in the nation in total revenue per pupil, which includes all revenues: state, local and federal. Every aspiration states provided more revenue per pupil than Kansas.

If adjusted for regional cost of living differences, using the Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Price Parity adjustment, Kansas ranked 25th, still below every aspiration state. Kansas' average funding per pupil from 2008 to 2014 was 27th in the nation – less than every aspiration state. Kansas increased revenue per pupil from 2008 to 2014 by just 1.7 percent, 38th in the nation, while average aspiration states increased at least 10 percent.

The state education report card also allowed Kansas to be compared to other groups of states. In 2014, Kansas funding was about \$1,000 more than adjacent states – but the only state ranked above Kansas in achievement is Nebraska, which provided about \$1,000 more than Kansas. Overall “peer” states – those most like Kansas based on demographic and economic factors – provided about \$1,000 more pupil.

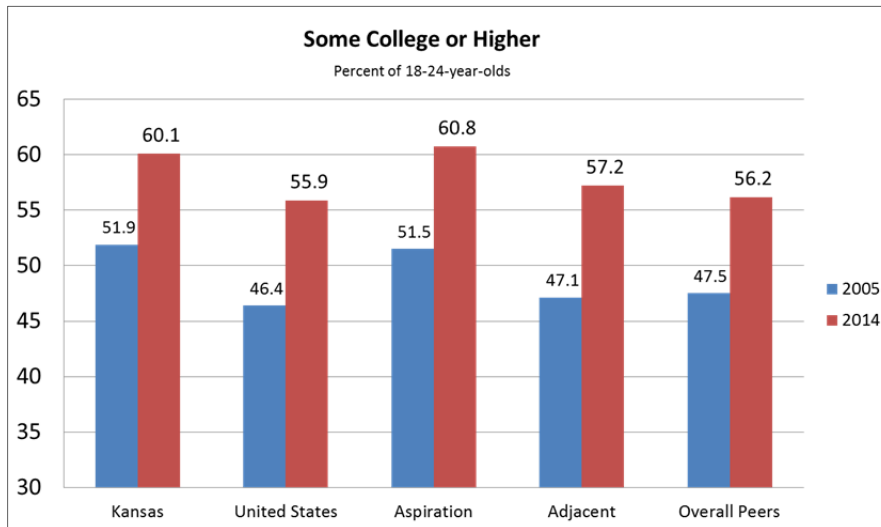


Kansas also spent a higher share of operating funds on instruction than any comparison group.

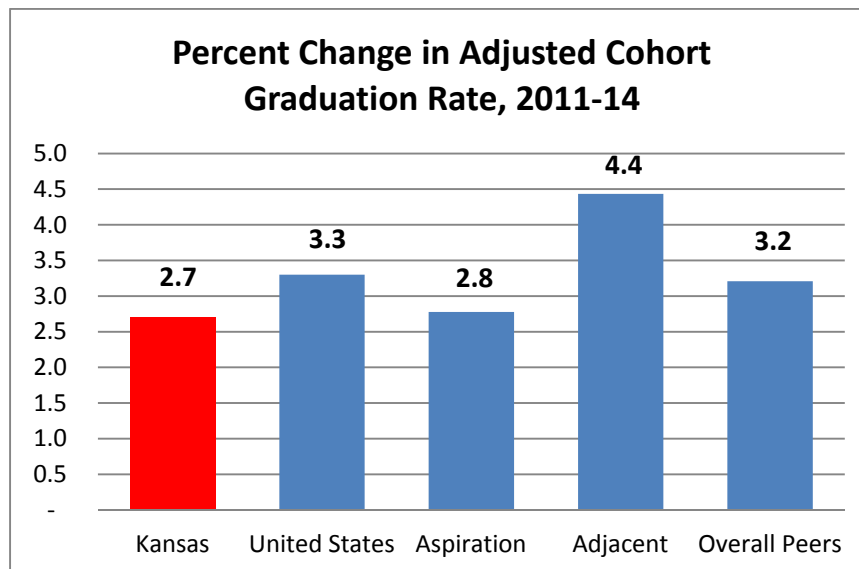


## Key Findings Regarding Educational Attainment

Kansas outperformed “peer” states in postsecondary attainment, especially the percent of 18 to 24-year-olds with any college or postsecondary participation and has improved over the past decade - but other states improved faster.



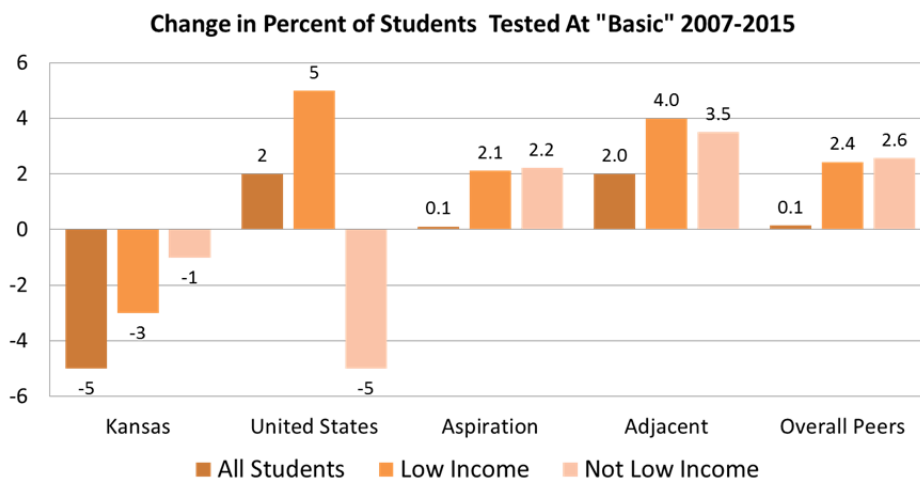
Kansas also improved its “on time” graduation rate and ranked especially on high graduation rates for Students with Limited English Proficiency (sixth) and Students with Disabilities (fourth). However, most other states have improved more than Kansas in recent years.



These indicators are critically important to Kansas economic development, with studies showing 91 percent of Kansas jobs in the future will require a high school diploma and 71 percent will require some postsecondary education (technical training, associate’s degree, four-year degree or advanced degree.)

The percentage of Kansas students who took the ACT and met all four benchmarks increased 7 percent since 2006, the same as the national average, *and* more than most peer states. However, the percentage of Kansas students tested dropped one point, while the U.S. average of students taking the ACT rose 19 percent and peer groups increased between 6.8 percent and 16.5 percent.

Most concerning, Kansas has seen a decline in NAEP scores at fourth and eighth grade, which could be an early warning signal that performance on indicators like graduation rates and postsecondary attainment will fall as these students move through the system. If so, that will have significant negative consequences for the state and individuals because of the critical link between high school completion, postsecondary education and economic security.



It should be noted Kansas’ performance on NAEP 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.

## Conclusion

This report shows Kansas student achievement still ranks high while Kansas is a relatively low-spending state on public school education. But distinct warning signs have arisen: many states are improving at a faster pace than Kansas while spending more than Kansas and the latest Kansas NAEP scores are concerning.

The current state of affairs in school funding and student achievement are important to understand as policymakers tackle the task of writing a new finance formula and face possible further instruction from the judicial branch on school finance.

Readers can find additional explanation, analysis and all of the data for this report at [www.kasb.org/reportcard2016](http://www.kasb.org/reportcard2016).

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