



District Sets Goals for 2010

Dr. Jill Shackelford, superintendent of schools, has worked with the District administration, staff and Board of Education to set ambitious goals for the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools for the year 2010. According to Dr. Shackelford, "By the year 2010, all of our schools will be making adequate yearly progress (AYP), all student groups will be achieving at high levels, and the gap between student groups will have disappeared." (AYP is the minimum level of improvement that schools and school districts must make, in order to meet the standards set by the federal No Child Left Behind law.)

To meet these standards, specific benchmarks for achievement have been set. In order for schools to make AYP in 2010, 85 percent of students will need to meet the state standard in reading, and 75 percent of students will need to meet the state standard in math. In addition, the district has set the goals of having all students "School Ready by First Grade" (able to perform on grade level) and "College Ready by Graduation."

Dr. Shackelford is confident that the district is on track to reach these goals.

"We have been averaging an increase of 4 percent a year in reading, and 4.5 percent in math," she

noted. "If we continue our pace in math, and accelerate just a little in reading, we will reach our 2010 achievement goals."

To reach the goal of having all students "School Ready by First Grade" the district has instituted all-day kindergarten in all of its buildings for the 2007-2008 school year. (See kindergarten story, below.) This was difficult to do, according to Dr. Shackelford, because the state of Kansas only reimburses the district for half of the costs for full-day kindergarten.

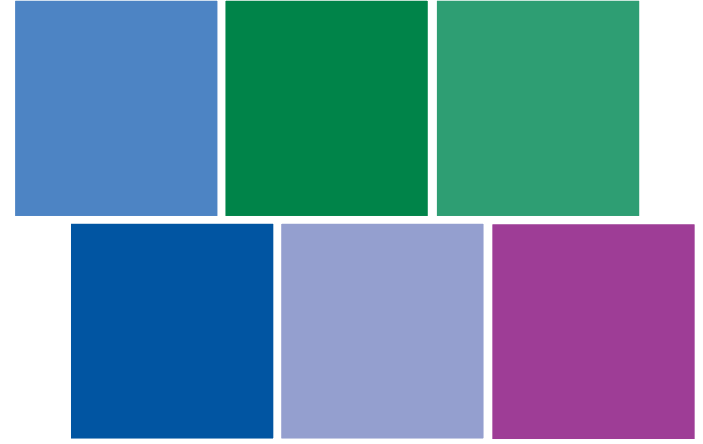
"Still," she said, "it was the right thing to do for our children, and we tightened our belts and made it happen!"

In future years, the district plans to work to have voluntary universal pre-school available for all four-year-olds in the district, to ensure that all children are developing the skills necessary to be successful in school.

In order to have all students "College Ready By Graduation," high schools are enrolling more students in challenging courses, creating a system of "benchmarks" that tell students exactly what they will need to know and be able to do in order to get



DR. JILL SHACKELFORD



credit for the course, and continuing to strengthen teaching, so that each student receives the instruction that they need to be successful.

According to Dr. Shackelford, reaching the 2010 goals will move the district into the top tier of districts nationally.

"We already receive a lot of attention nationally for the progress that we are making in raising student achievement," Dr. Shackelford said. "Reaching our 2010 goals will move us from 'good to great' as a school district. It will take a lot of hard work from teachers, students and the broader community, but everywhere I go, I hear enthusiasm about the progress we've made, and excitement about the work that lies ahead. We are becoming the school district that this community deserves!"

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

AUGUST 2007

- 13 First Day of School (K-5, 6, 9)
- 14 First Day of School – all students
- 23 Family Advocacy Day, No School

SEPTEMBER 2007

- 3 Holiday, No School
- 20 Student Count Day

OCTOBER 2007

- 24 Teacher Inservice Day, No School

NOVEMBER 2007

- 7 Family Advocacy Day, No School
- 21-23 Holiday, No School

DECEMBER 2007

- 24-31 Winter Break

JANUARY 2008

- 1-4 Winter Break
- 9 Teacher Inservice, No School
- 21 Holiday, No School

FEBRUARY 2008

- 18 Holiday, No School
- 27 Family Advocacy Day, No School

MARCH 2008

- 12 Teacher Inservice, No School
- 17-21 Spring Break, No School

MAY 2008

- 21 Last Day of School

Back to School Fair Set for August 4

A Back to School Fair for all Wyandotte County students has been scheduled for Saturday, August 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kansas Army National Guard Armory, 100 S. 20th Street (18th and Ridge), Kansas City, Kansas.

Lots of resources and information will be available for students, parents and families, according to Dola Myers, program coordinator for School Linked Services, Inc., one of the organizations sponsoring the event, along with The Haven Center.

"We are working hard to make sure that students and families have the things they need in order to get the year off to a great start!" she said.

Free school supplies will be available, on a first-come, first-served basis. (Children must be present in order to receive school supplies.) In addition, information will be available about various community organizations. Medical personnel will be on hand to provide free health screenings (sorry, no immunizations will be available) and there will be free books available, along with entertainment, fun activities, and prizes. Luis Galdamez, a nationally-known motivational speaker, will speak at 9:30 a.m. and noon.

Entrance to the Back to School Fair is free, but visitors must show proof of residence in Wyandotte County (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) in order to gain admittance. Questions may be directed to School Linked Services at (913) 627-4352.

Full-Day Kindergarten Available in all District Schools

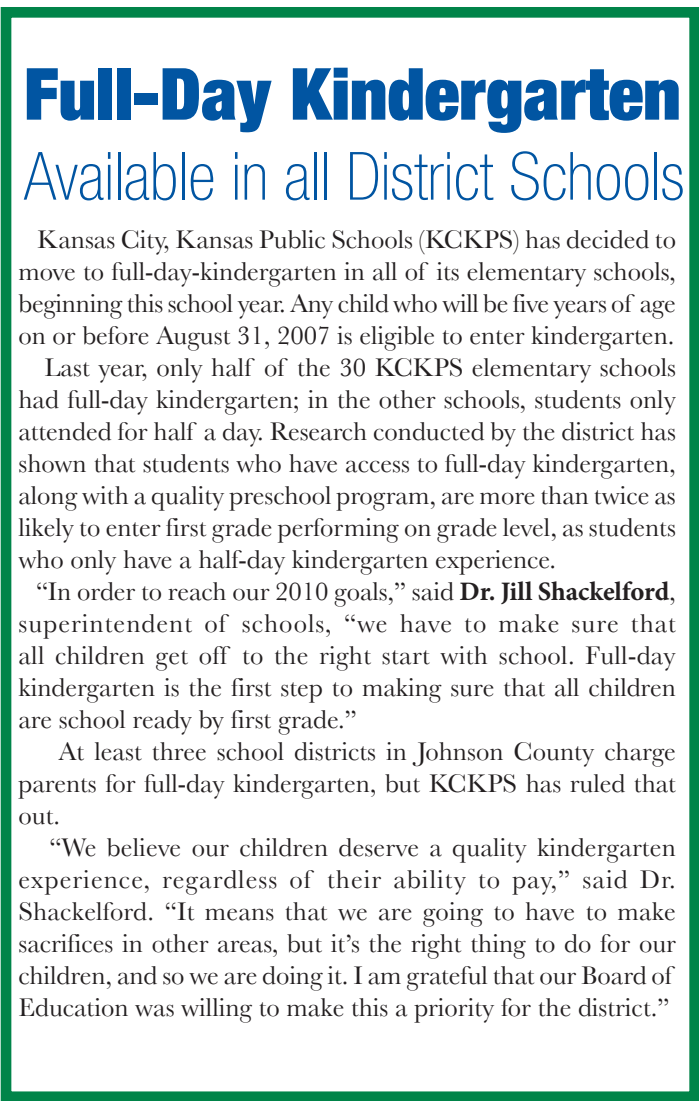
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) has decided to move to full-day-kindergarten in all of its elementary schools, beginning this school year. Any child who will be five years of age on or before August 31, 2007 is eligible to enter kindergarten.

Last year, only half of the 30 KCKPS elementary schools had full-day kindergarten; in the other schools, students only attended for half a day. Research conducted by the district has shown that students who have access to full-day kindergarten, along with a quality preschool program, are more than twice as likely to enter first grade performing on grade level, as students who only have a half-day kindergarten experience.

"In order to reach our 2010 goals," said **Dr. Jill Shackelford**, superintendent of schools, "we have to make sure that all children get off to the right start with school. Full-day kindergarten is the first step to making sure that all children are school ready by first grade."

At least three school districts in Johnson County charge parents for full-day kindergarten, but KCKPS has ruled that out.

"We believe our children deserve a quality kindergarten experience, regardless of their ability to pay," said Dr. Shackelford. "It means that we are going to have to make sacrifices in other areas, but it's the right thing to do for our children, and so we are doing it. I am grateful that our Board of Education was willing to make this a priority for the district."



School begins Monday, August 13 for K-5, 6th and 9th grades



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents, and students over 18 years of age, certain rights concerning a student's school records. They have the right to:

- ◆ Look at and review the student's school records within 45 days of the day they make a request. A written request should be given to the school principal that identifies the record(s) they wish to look at. The principal will tell them within 45 days the time and place where the records may be seen.
- ◆ Ask for a change to the student's school record that they think is not correct or is misleading. A letter to the school principal should explain why the record is not correct and clearly identify what part of the record needs to be changed. If the school does not change the record, parents (or eligible students) have the right to a hearing.
- ◆ Approve the release of identifiable information contained in the student's school records, except for information that FERPA can release without having permission. One permitted exception is for the release of information to "school officials" with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the school district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. School officials have legitimate educational interests if they need to examine a school record in order to complete a task.
- ◆ File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education about suspected failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

First Day of School is Monday, August 13

There are two official start dates for the 2007-2008 school year for students in the KCK Public Schools. Monday, August 13 will be the first full day of classes for K-5, plus 6th grade students at all middle schools and 9th grade students at Washington, Wyandotte, Schlagle and Harmon high schools.

At Summer Academy of Arts and Science, 8th grade students, plus new 9th and 10th grade students will begin classes on Monday, August 13. There will be a full day of classes for students at all grade levels on Tuesday, August 14.

Lunch will be served beginning on the first day of classes, August 13. Breakfast will be served beginning Tuesday, August 14. Meal prices for the 2007-2008 school year are: .90 for elementary breakfast; \$1.50 for elementary lunch; \$1.00 for middle and senior high breakfast; and \$1.75 for middle and senior high lunch.

The KCK school district does not charge enrollment fees or textbook rental fees. However, students may be required to pay for items used for individual projects in woodworking, art, etc. Students will be charged for lost or damaged textbooks and supplies.

Most middle and senior high school students pre-enrolled for classes last spring, but those students new to the district, including elementary, should contact the school they will attend for information about enrollment. Parents may call the district's Student, Family and Community Services Office, (913) 279-2248, with questions concerning the school their child will attend.

High school students who

are new to the district must enroll during the New Student Enrollment period set in August at the Education Center at Indian Springs, 4601 State Ave. Proof of residence, birth certificate, immunization records, withdrawal information and transcripts from the student's previous school must be provided at the time of enrollment. Dates and times are as follows:

August 6, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
August 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
August 8, 1 to 4 p.m.
August 9, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
August 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
August 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
August 14, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
August 15, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
August 16, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
August 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you have a child who is entering the school district for the first time, please bring the following items with you at the time of enrollment:

- A birth certificate for each child enrolling in kindergarten or grade one – a birth certificate or other proof of age for all other students.
- A Kansas certificate of immunization for each child.
- A physical exam/health assessment for each child nine years of age or younger. Those coming from another school in Kansas must present a copy of the physical health assessment when enrolling in the KCK Public Schools.
- A report card from the sending school or authorization for school transcripts.

Children must be five years of age on or before August 31 to enter kindergarten. A child enrolling in first grade who did not attend kindergarten must be six years of age on or before August 31.

Parents' Right to Know

Under the federal government's No Child Left Behind Act, parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher. Schools are required to let you know:

- ◆ Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing standards for the grade levels and subject areas he or she teaches.
- ◆ Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status where state qualification or licensing standards have been waived.
- ◆ The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- ◆ Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of the above information, contact the district's Human Resources office, (913) 279-2261.

How Does Your School Measure Up?

Parents can see how their child's school measures up by viewing district performance report cards. The Kansas State Board of Education has established the building report card as another tool for accountability in the school improvement process.

The report card is a brief summary of how a school and students are performing and the impact of the school's improvement plan. Over time, the report card can be used by parents to monitor the progress of a school toward meeting established goals. However, the report card is not designed to be used to compare one school to another or one school district to another due to the distinct character and climate of each school, as well as each community.

Such things as curricula, teaching methods, special programs, or employee performance are too complex and subjective to be able to quantify in a report card format. Still, the report cards show each school's strengths and areas for program improvement.

To view the report cards, go to www.kckps.org/reportcards/.

Administrative Changes for 2007-2008 School Year

Dr. Jill Shackelford, superintendent of schools, has announced the following administrative changes for the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools for the 2007-2008 school year:

- **Jim Antos**, former retiree of the KCK Public Schools, is the executive director of middle schools
- **Anna Barnes**, former teacher at Wyandotte High School, is an assistant principal at Wyandotte
- **Lori Cooper**, former instructional coach in the district, is the principal at Stony Point South Elementary School
- **Charlotte Davis**, former assistant principal at Wyandotte High School, to athletic specialist
- **Barbara Deane**, formerly with the Shawnee Mission School

District, is the special educator coordinator at the Education Center

- **Sandra Egidy**, former instructional coach in the district, is the assistant principal at Whittier Elementary School
- **Bruce Haber**, former assistant principal in district, is the principal at White Church Elementary School
- **Nanette Hall**, former teacher in the district, is the assistant principal at F.L. Schlagle High School
- **Kerry Kubicki**, former teacher at Wyandotte High School, is an assistant principal at Wyandotte
- **Charlene Littlefield**, former teacher in the district, is the ESL instructional coach
- **Janice McConnell-Miller**, former instructional coach in the district, is the interim principal at Grant Elementary

School

- **Maritza Paul**, former teacher in the district, is an assistant principal at Washington High School
- **Jewell Ragsdale**, former principal at Grant Elementary School, is the principal at Coronado Middle School
- **Jesse Rivers**, former teacher in the district, is an assistant principal at Washington High School
- **Venita Thurman**, former teacher in the district, is an assistant principal at J.C. Harmon High School
- **Walter Thompson**, rescinded retirement from Wyandotte High School and remains principal there

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SPOTLIGHT

Published by the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District's Communications Office

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VOL. 14, NO. 1 AUGUST 2007