

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

Annual Report

Kansas Legislature

Topeka, Kansas

March 11, 2015

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

## Current School Districts

Concordia USD 333

McPherson USD 418

Blue Valley USD 229

Kansas City USD 500

Hugoton USD 210

Marysville USD 364

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

The law states...

Except as otherwise provided, or as required by the board of education of the public innovative district, **a public innovative district shall be exempt from all laws and rules and regulations that are applicable to school districts.**

# DRAFT:

## Success Indicators

- Innovative Districts have many commonalities in defining student “success.” All districts agree that the minimal high school diploma
  - College Credit
  - Industry Recognized Certifications
  - Military
  - Employed

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

## *McPherson USD 418*

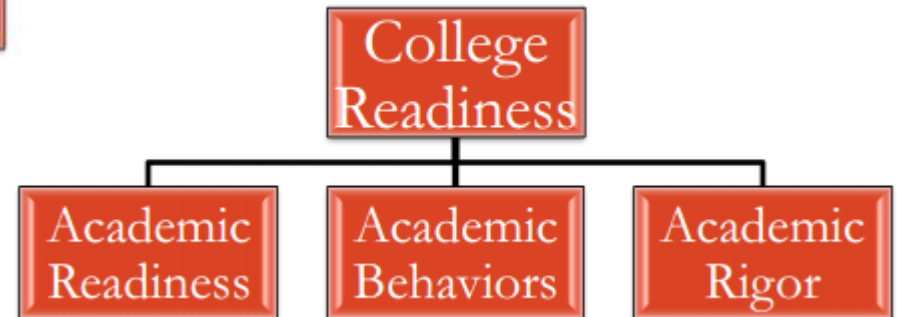
- Central Kansas district with 2,300 students
  - 39% poverty

*“The power of the Coalition of Innovative Districts lies in the formation of partnerships between the Innovative Districts and their school boards, the Governor, legislature and the State Board of Education. Over time, the synergy, discussion and collaboration of the participants will aid the state of Kansas in examining, not only outstanding methods of improving student success, but ways to enhance our current educational system..”*

*Dr. Randy Watson, Superintendent & Coalition Chairman*



# McPherson



*“McPherson is being seen as a model for the country. Your decision to request the waiver was courageous.”*

-Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

*“The Coalition of Innovative School Districts was simply created to improve student performance and outcomes post high school, identify barriers to those goals and function as a center of school innovation in Kansas. We are in the early stages of implementation of the law but can already see that our work can lead to assisting all school districts in innovative change.”*



# McPherson



USD #418 will seek relief from:

- Assessments
- Licensure
- College Tuition Payment



# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

## *Concordia Schools – USD 333*

- Rural, North Central Kansas district of 1,015 students
  - 59% poverty

*“We must create partnerships, outside the school system, that assist us in providing additional opportunities for students. Successful partnerships will help us eliminate duplication of resources, through sharing of staff, facilities and other resources. We’re excited to work with other districts in the Coalition to improve student success.”*

*Bev Mortimer, Superintendent, Coalition Vice Chair*



### CCCC

- \*earn degree
- \*share staff
- \*share facilities
- \*increased course offerings
- \*pay tuition (beyond SB 155)





# College & Career Ready Strategies

## USD 333

- Individual Plans of Study



- Consideration of extra-curricular activities for credit



- Accreditation
- Rigorous & Relevant Curriculum
  - Paying college tuition
  - Sharing staff with CCCC (licensure)
  - Flexibility with students earning credits for extra-curricular activities (physical education)

# College & Career Ready USD 333



Enlisting assistance from CHS Alumni for career exploration, job shadowing, mentoring and internships.



Consideration of local professionals as classroom instructors in the CTE areas.

- Nearly two-thirds of jobs will require post-secondary education
- USD 333 Baseline – 2014
  - 24% - earned 1 yr. of college credit
  - 14% earned an industry recognized certification
  - 3% entered military
  - 34.5% met our local goal

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

- *Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools USD 500*
  - *Eastern Kansas of 22,599 students*
    - *89.88% poverty*

*Each student will exit high school prepared for college and careers in a global society, and at every level, performance is on-track and on-time for success. It is clear, concise, and measurable, and when that goal is attained, it will be transformative for students, families, and our community. Achieving results that matter to life outcomes for our students is at the center of our work.*

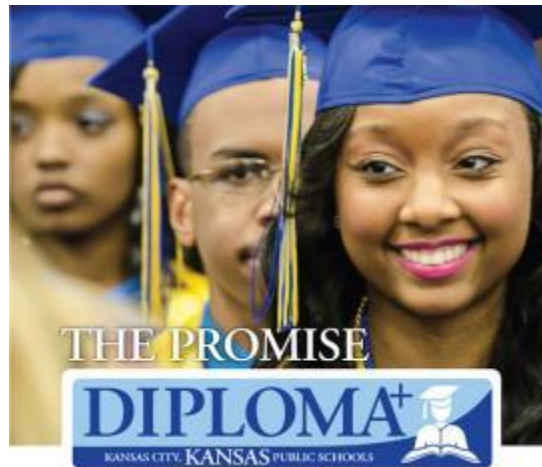
*Dr. Cynthia Lane, Superintendent*





## *Kansas City, Kansas*

- With Diploma+, each student will receive a high school diploma, along with at least one of the following:
  - ONE YEAR OF COLLEGE COMPLETED
  - AN INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATE OR CREDENTIAL
  - AT LEAST A 21 ON THE ACT® COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENT



# *Kansas City, Kansas*

- The district is seeking to continue to use alternatives to the state assessment; to have relief from teacher licensure requirements, in order to give high school students access to classes taught by industry experts; to have students taking high school classes in middle school receive state Regents credits; to pay college tuition for high school students; and to allow students to take college classes from higher education institutions in Missouri.



# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

## *Hugoton Schools – USD 210*

- Rural, SW KS district of 1,100 students
- Property value rich, demographically poor
- 60% poverty, 50% Hispanic, 38% English Language Learners

*“We need to see first-generation students as the pioneers they are.”*

Mark Crawford, Superintendent



# *Rigor – Relevance – Relationships @ Hugoton Schools*

The level of academic achievement that students attain by 8th grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school. (The Forgotten Middle, 2008)



# Key CCR Strategies @ Hugoton

- K-12 rigor – instructional shifts Common Core
- 7-9 grade IPoS
- CCR Advocate & Counseling in 7-12 grade
- College campus visits in middle & high school





# Coalition of Innovative School Districts



## *Blue Valley - USD 229*

- Eastern Kansas district with 21,807 students
  - 9% poverty

*“Blue Valley is excited to have an opportunity to collaborate with other innovative districts across the state. The sharing of innovative solutions and collaboration to removing current barriers to quality educational experiences for our students is the current focus of the coalition”.*

*Dr. Tom Trigg, Superintendent*



# Blue Valley



- **Assessment Flexibility**

- *Blue Valley Schools will create and implement a system that will result in our students being among the world's leaders in academic achievement.*
- Using the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) as a guide, Blue Valley can now compare its academic results with the rest of the world in math, reading and science. While Blue Valley consistently scores higher than the United States, students' scores in math and reading place Blue Valley seventh and fourth respectively on the 2012 PISA, right behind Finland. Blue Valley's long-term goal is to be the best in the world. Blue Valley's short-term goal is to beat Finland.
- **Update:** The strategic initiative to be world leaders in academic achievement is already showing marked progress. On the 2013 PISA exam, Blue Valley #beatfinland in math and reading. Surpassing Finland in science will require more work.

# Blue Valley

- **Licensure Flexibility**



- We believe the structure of student learning is changing and outstanding instructors exist who have not had traditional education backgrounds. The ability to access individuals with experiences and expertise to enrich the classroom experience of students in unique programs (such as CAPS) will enable Blue Valley to expand and support student learning.



# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

## *Marysville Schools – USD 364*

- Northeast Kansas district with 696 students
  - 43.97% poverty

*“The Coalition Districts work together to improve teaching and learning for the students in their districts by seeking exemptions from specific state regulations that might be getting in the way of serving the children in their communities. In these districts it seems like there are increased opportunities and higher expectations for student success.”*

*Bill Mullins, Superintendent*



# *Marysville*

Exemptions:

Licensure

Accreditation

Teacher Evaluation Timeline

HS Credit for mentoring and internships

Assessments



# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

*Mr. Brad Neuenswander*

*Kansas Interim Commissioner  
of Education*

“We are looking forward to working with the coalition districts around some laws and regulations that may be outdated. Many of our laws and regulations were written 20+ years ago and may not align with the way school districts perform today. Having a handful of school districts try some innovative approaches to their operations may help us redefine some of our current laws and regulations.”



# Coalition of Innovative Districts

*Ms. Deena Horst*

*State Board of Education*

“It is an exciting time to be involved in developing education policy. Change is being proposed by many and the Coalition of Innovative Districts gives the State Board of Education, as well as the State Legislature, unique opportunities to pilot changes to laws which may be obstacles to the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century student learners.”



# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

- The CID is evolving into a "educational think tank" that encourages and tests new ideas on how to better serve Kansas students.
- The CID has provided an opportunity to recognize and support local Kansas School Districts that in partnership with the State Board of Education along with local boards, teachers and community are committed to excellence and want to test and try new ways of providing for the success of students.

**Mr. Jim McNiece**

**State Board of Education  
2015 Chairman**





# DRAFT:

# Teacher Licensure

- Innovative Districts shall have authority to grant a “district specialized certificate” that would waive present KSDE regulations and Kansas Law. The district certificate would only be valid in the applying district upon approval of the Coalition Board and the local Board of Education.
  - In the areas of:
    - Out of field
    - Out of area
    - Out of State
    - Special Education
    - Does not have a teaching license

# DRAFT:

# Assessments

- Innovative Districts have discussed alternatives and options to state assessments, considering state and federal guidelines. It is important to include flexibility ideas in the waiver, due March 1. It is also important to open communications during the ESEA reauthorization process.
  - Alignment to curriculum/inform instruction
  - Student growth
  - Desire to reduce the testing footprint
  - Issues with Title 1 schools/federal accountability
  - Focus on student success, not a narrow student achievement

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

- HB 2319 was signed into law in April of 2013:
  - It authorizes a process where a local board of education may apply for authority to operate as a “**public innovative district.**”
  - The original bill limited the number of public innovative districts to **no more than 10% (29)** of the state’s school districts at any time.
  - **An additional 10%** of school districts may become an innovative district as long as they are either a **title I focus school or a title I priority school** as described by the state board under the elementary and secondary education act flexibility waiver.

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

Shall...

- Not charge tuition.
- Participate in all Kansas math and reading assessments, or an alternative assessment as determined by the board of education (local).
- Abide by all financial and auditing requirements that are applicable to school districts.
- Comply with all applicable health, safety and access laws.
- Be subject to special education for exceptional children act; the virtual school act, the school district finance and quality performance act, capital outlay requirements, laws governing the issuance of general obligation bonds, laws governing school board elections, the open meetings and open records act, and public employee retirement.

# Year 1

- February 2014 – Selection of first two districts – Randy Watson, McPherson named Chair of Coalition, Concordia selected as second district
- April 2014 – Applications & Presentations to State Board of Education
- May 2014 – State Board selected members to meet with Coalition
- June 2014 – SBOE approves McPherson & Concordia applications
  - Coalition begins official meetings and sets a framework
  - Coalition meets third Thursday of each month; open meetings
- July 2014 – Draft of By-Laws presented to State Board
- August 2014 – SBOE approval of Coalition By-laws
- October 2014 – SBOE approve of applications from Hugoton, Kansas City, Blue Valley
- December 2014 – Deadline for new applications
- February 2015 – SBOE approval of Marysville into Coalition

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

Districts who want to apply...

- Make application to become an Innovative School District by December 1, 2015 (found on the KSDE website)
- The Coalition of Innovative School Districts will review the applications and approve or deny in December.
- Applications approved go on the State Board of Education for approval (90 Days).

# Coalition of Innovative School Districts

What is needed in the application...

- A description of the educational program of the public innovative district.
- A description of the interest and support for partnerships between the public, innovative district, parents and the community.
- The specific goals and the measurable pupil outcomes to be obtained by operating as a public innovative district.
- An explanation of how pupil performance in achieving the specified outcomes will be measured, evaluated and reported.
- Laws, rules, and/or regulations the district feels need to be waived in order to accomplish the planned innovation(s).

# Coalition of Innovative Districts