

This edition of USA|Kansas online news is being sent to all administrators as complimentary back to school greeting.



House Appropriations Committee to meet August 23-24

Today, the House Appropriations committee convened a two-day meeting to discuss the State's economic condition. On Tuesday morning, the committee will receive a update on K-12 education funding. Although this meeting is open to the public, only those individuals invited by the Committee Chair are able to offer testimony. The following superintendents are scheduled to appear before the committee:

John Allison, Supt., Wichita USD 259
Kevin Singer, Supt., Topeka USD 501
Gene Johnson, Supt., Shawnee Mission USD 512
Don Wells, Supt., Scott City USD 466
Marvin Estes, Supt., Winfield USD 465

USA|Kansas, the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA), Schools for Fair Funding (SFF), Schools for Quality Education (SQE) and the Kansas Families for Education (KFE) joined together to issue the a press statement prior to tomorrow's meeting.

School Leaders Warn of Future Budget Cuts

Topeka - USA|Kansas and several other education organizations issued a press statement outlining concerns that state funding cuts are eroding the state's high quality education system.

As Kansas students began returning to class this month, school district representatives say they have tried to maintain the quality of instruction and services helping students succeed. But they say important programs and positions have already been cut, and further funding cuts will affect learning opportunities for all students.

[Read more](#)

Administrator Monthly Back to School edition now available online

The most current edition of the *Administrator Monthly* is now available [online](#). In this online edition, email addresses, websites and advertisements are contain links. In this edition...

- KLFA and KTWU host community conversation on Kansas education
- USA|Kansas talks about policy reforms that focused on finance, administrative

- efficiencies and building capacity
- School districts to pilot new building-level administrator evaluation
- Board of Regents makes changes to qualified Admissions
- KDHE Update: Guidance on H1N1
- ARRA update
- Kansas Mentors: 2009 Coaches' Challenge and more...

USA|Kansas begins Fall regional meetings

Today, USA|Kansas kicked off its annual Fall regional meetings in Concordia. Alexa Posny, Commissioner of Education; Mr. Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner; Diane DeBacker, Deputy Commissioner and representatives from KDHE are traveling with us. The USA|Kansas regional meetings offer a great opportunity for building and district level administrators to network with regional colleagues and participate in discussions about current issues in Kansas education.

The 2009 USA|Kansas Fall regional meetings have been scheduled during the weeks of August 24 and August 31. We have added two additional locations this year -- Oakley and Hutchinson. Registration for this meetings this week has been closed, however, registration for next week's meetings will remain open until Thursday. Administrators are welcome to register onsite.

Registration fees include materials and lunch. \$40 for MEMBERS, \$50 for NONMEMBERS and \$30 for STUDENTS and EMERITUS. Click [here](#) to view the meeting agenda. Click [here](#) to register for next week's meetings.

USA|Kansas: K-12 education news on Delicious

USA|Kansas is now using Delicious, a social bookmarking service that allows users to tag, save, manage and share web pages from a centralized source, to track K-12 education media coverage in Kansas. Join us on Delicious or bookmark the following USA|Kansas website link: [USA|Kansas: K-12 education news on Delicious](#). The page is formatted so that you can scroll through daily headlines and select only those articles that you are interested in reading further.

USA|Kansas announces partnership with the National Joint Powers Alliance®

USA|Kansas has partnered with the National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA) to save you time and money through participation in a high volume, cost effective and legally bid contract cooperative. NJPA® is endorsed by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the National Organization of Coaches Association Directory (NOCAD), the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and SciQuest.

Several Kansas districts currently participate in the NJPA Cooperative Purchasing Program to:

- Access to competitively bid contracts
- Take advantage of nationally leveraged and aggregated pricing services
- Access a broad range of high quality products and services and
- Realize time and resource savings for participating members

[Read more](#)

KLFA and KTWU partner for "Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids"

KLFA has partnered with KTWU, Channel 11, to produce this program which will be taped in the KTWU studios on September 2 and hosted by Brad and Judy Stauffer. It will be composed of three segments. Each segment begins with the airing of a short video clip focused on 21st century learning. The clips will be followed by discussions of three different panels representing three groups: educators, parents, and members of the business community. The discussions will be focused on what each group believes to be educational priorities for the future of Kansas public education. The show will air on all Kansas Public Broadcasting stations. While the National Learning First Alliance promotes this type of partnership between public television and the LFA state affiliates, Kansas is the first state to be able to host such a production.

Along with the production, local Watch/Talk parties will be encouraged as part of the program promotion. Materials will be provided free to assist those who are willing to organize this important discussion on a local level throughout the state. Anyone can host a watch and talk party; libraries, site councils, PTA's, civic organizations, Boards of Education, even neighborhoods or individuals. The goal is to stir a discussion across the State of Kansas about what the future of an affordable, quality public education "looks like".

More information is posted on the KLFA website, www.klfa.org. In the meantime, we are asking that administrators give thoughtful consideration to hosting or attending a watch/talk party. We have already heard that several superintendents and service centers are planning to coordinate watch/talk parties and we are grateful for these efforts to make this a broad conversation. Certainly, a very visible conversation about what parents, educators and businesses believe is the vision of Kansas Education could not happen at a more appropriate time.

Have you joined USA|Kansas?

Our success and strength has been a direct result of the involvement of dedicated education administrators. Your leadership and participation in the association strengthens our presence with the Legislature, the State Board of Education and with our educational partners. As you know, ***there may be no more important time to band together to show our support for K-12 education and quality leaders in Kansas schools.***

During these challenging economic times, you will be faced with difficult decisions about allocation of resources – both personally and professionally. We hope that you will take time to consider the many benefits of belonging to USA|Kansas, including:

- Legislative advocacy, including legislative updates and alerts;
- Leadership opportunities within the organization and on state and national committees and advisory groups;
- Legal assistance for job-related matters (up to \$750 per membership year);
- Discounted registration fees for events (a \$200 savings for the annual convention);
- Access to a high volume, cost-effective and legally bid contract cooperative;
- The *Administrator Monthly* newsletter and access to other publications; and many additional resources...

Click [here](#) to download the 2009-2010 membership brochure and membership form online; forms can be mailed or faxed to the USA|Kansas office. You can also join [online](#). Remember, you can sign up for payroll deduction, pay with a Purchase Order, check or with credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover).

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