



**Kansas State Department of Education**  
120 SE 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612 ▪ (785) 296-4876



**Kansas Board of Regents**  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612 ▪ (785) 296-3421

# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 30, 2009

## **KANSAS EDUCATION AGENCIES ENTER NEW AGREEMENT TO SHARE DATA**

### *Agreement Will Improve Evaluation of Education Programs*

(TOPEKA) – Today the Kansas Board of Regents and Kansas State Department of Education announced that they will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will enable the agencies to share education data to track student achievement and evaluate education programs. Last month, Governor Mark Parkinson signed [Executive Order 09-03](#) in support of the two agencies entering into the data-sharing MOU.

“At the end of the day, what we want to know is – are we preparing our kids for college? The best way to find that out is to look at the big picture, and compare students’ success in college to their success in public schools,” said Governor Mark Parkinson. “This will tell us what our schools are doing well, and where there might be room for improvement. This agreement between our state’s postsecondary education system and our public schools is a critical step toward achieving a seamless education system in Kansas.”

“We are excited about the data-sharing agreement with the Department of Education,” said Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. “This MOU will enable us to share data efficiently and effectively to help us assess how effectively we are educating students in Kansas. This is the first step in establishing the kind of integrated database in Kansas that will help us to undertake important research and evaluation concerning student achievement.”

“By building a statewide network for increased data-sharing and collaboration across all levels of education, we can begin operating as a whole system not as separate sectors,” said Kansas Commissioner of Education, Dr. Alexa Posny. “An integrated quality education system prepares all Kansas students for success, and we’re pleased to enter into this collaborative enterprise.”

The MOU will allow the departments to share and access data for study and research questions, to evaluate programs, and to track student achievement. The MOU also complies with federal and state privacy laws designed to protect personally-identifiable student data.

###

***About the Kansas Board of Regents:***

The nine-member Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (seven public universities, 19 community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas, and administers the Kan-ed network, a statewide network that provides broadband Internet access and distance learning capabilities for schools, hospitals, and libraries.

***About the Kansas Department of Education:***

The Kansas State Department of Education oversees all aspects of K-12 education in the state. A National Governors Association (NGA) grant, awarded in 2006 to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), made it possible for the state to begin investigation of connecting education data between KSDE and KBOR. This initiative has continued as part of the KSDE Enterprise Data System. Through this initiative, KSDE and KBOR have now implemented a process for connecting P-12 state student identifiers with the KBOR student identifiers.

For more information, contact Vanessa Lamoreaux, with the Kansas Board of Regents, at (785) 296-3421 or at [vlamoreaux@ksbor.org](mailto:vlamoreaux@ksbor.org), or Karla S. Denny, with the Kansas State Department of Education, at (785) 296-4876 or at [kdenny@ksde.org](mailto:kdenny@ksde.org).

Visit the Kansas Board of Regents online at [www.kansasregents.org](http://www.kansasregents.org) and the Kansas State Department of Education online at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)