

So What is the Difference?

Standards & Assessments

The **Kansas Academic Standards** give school districts a framework to design their curriculum, instruction, testing and teacher development. *Academic standards* spell out what students should know and be able to do at various stages in their schooling.

The **Kansas State Assessment** is what Kansas uses to determine whether or not a student meets standards in specific areas such as reading, writing, math, science, and history/government. An *assessment* is just another name for a test.

It could be useful to know the school's policies and practices on giving standardized tests and the use of test scores. Ask your child's teacher or guidance counselor about the kinds of tests your child will take during the year — and the schedule for testing.

One other thing: some schools give their students practice in taking tests. This helps to make sure that they are familiar with directions and test format. Find out whether your child's school gives "test-taking practice" on a regular basis or will provide such practice if your child needs it.

Ask the School...



When parents encourage and stimulate their child's natural learning ability, they foster creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm that pave the way for school success.

Homework Help

- Set aside a regular time and location for study
- Break information into chunks
- Provide a quiet, well-lit place to study
- Allow time for some after school fun
- Show interest and practice with your child
- Praise a job well done



What Every Parent Should Know About

Kansas Academic Standards & Assessments



Parent Involvement = Student Success



120 S.E. 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182
(785) 296-3201
TTY (785) 296-6338
www.ksde.org

**Can State Assessments
Alone Determine My
Child's Placement in
the Classroom?**

No!

Tests give teachers only part of the picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses. Teacher's combine the results of many methods to gain insights into the skills, abilities, and knowledge of your child. These methods include

- observing students in the classroom;
- evaluating their day-to-day classwork;
- grading their homework assignments;
- meeting their parents; and
- keeping close track of how students change and grow throughout the year.

State Assessments have their limitations. These assessments are not perfect measures of what an individual student can or cannot do. Also, your child's scores on a particular assessment may vary from day to day.



An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency
The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel
120 SE 10th Ave. Topeka, KS 66612 785-296-3204.

Do's & Don't's

You can be a great help to your children if you will observe these do's and don't's about tests and testing:

Do encourage children. Praise them for things they do well. If they feel good about themselves, they will do their best.

Don't be too anxious about your child's test scores. If you put too much emphasis on test scores, this can upset your child.

Do ask for the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of school work. Parents and teachers should work together to benefit students.

Don't judge your child on the basis of a single test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what your child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score.

Do make sure that your child:

- attends school regularly.
- is well rested on school days and especially on the day of a test.
- is provided a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- receives a well-balanced diet.
- is provided with books and magazines for your youngster to read at home.



How to Avoid Test Anxiety

Encourage your child to:

- space studying over days or weeks. **Avoid cramming the night before.** Cramming increases anxiety which interferes with clear thinking.
- get a good night's sleep. Rest, exercise, and eating well are as important to test-taking as they are to other school work.
- read the directions carefully when a teacher hands out the test. If your child doesn't understand the question, he or she should ask the teacher to explain.
- look quickly at the entire examination to see what types of questions are included.
- give their best guess instead of leaving questions unanswered on the state assessments.

