

State of the District

Spring Hill School District's Annual Academic Update
November 2009



All Schools in Spring Hill School District Meet Adequate Yearly Progress Goals

Results from the Kansas Statewide Assessments show continued growth in reading, mathematics, science and writing for Spring Hill School District students in grades 3 through 12. Not only did all district schools surpass the state's definition of academic proficiency but the district as a whole also met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals. This is the seventh consecutive year that all district schools have met AYP.

"The state assessment results show continued academic progression of district students," said Dr. Karen Brack, USD 230's director of curriculum. "Not only do our schools meet the state's goal, which is increased each year making it harder to achieve, but students continually score well above the state's educational objectives."

In addition, Spring Hill School District schools received 23 Standards of Excellence, which requires meeting stringent academic goals set by the state. Based on achievement, these awards are given by grade level and also building-wide. Check out the list on page 2.

Highlights:

- All USD 230 schools and the district achieved AYP for the seventh consecutive year.
- In addition, district schools received more than 20 Standards of Excellence.
- District students scored above national averages in reading and math on this fall's MAP tests.



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Striving for Excellence Each Day

This fall's NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests resulted in Spring Hill School District students consistently scoring above national averages in reading and math.

MAP tests present students in grades 3 through 10 with engaging, age-appropriate content. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down in difficulty. By creating a unique test for each student, educators receive highly accurate information about their students. Rather than indicating what a student might be able to do relative to grade-level standards, MAP tests indicate what a student is ready to learn relative to state standards – not bound by grade. In district schools, students are tested in the fall, so the growth is measured from fall to fall.

At fall parent-teacher conferences, parents and guardians were provided with MAP scores for their students. This test, which features nearly instantaneous results, allows teachers to hone in on each student's needs.

New Measures Put Into Place to Ensure ACT Scores Meet Expectations

After years of consistent gains in ACT scores, the Spring Hill School District saw its first drop in the average composite test score in 2009. This information led a team of district teachers and administrators to delve into research, and put in place strategies that will ensure future ACT scores meet the mark.

Some strategies include reinstating the practice ACT for sophomores, implementing in-class work that reflects ACT questions, focusing students on the core curriculum, increasing time with teaching staff, and promoting more rigor in course structure.

Successful ACT preparation involves parent involvement in curriculum choices beginning in middle school, enhanced communication, appropriate academic course sequences and test preparation practice.

2009

Standards of Excellence*

Spring Hill High School:

- Reading
- Math

Spring Hill Middle School:

- Reading – 6th, 7th, 8th and whole building
- Math – 6th, 7th, 8th and whole building
- Writing – 8th

Spring Hill Intermediate School:

- Writing – 5th
- Math – 5th

Prairie Creek Elementary School:

- Reading – 3rd, 4th, 5th and whole building
- Math – 3rd, 4th, 5th and whole building
- Science – 4th
- Writing – 5th

* Only applies to students in grades 3-12. For information about Kansas assessments, visit: www.ksde.org.