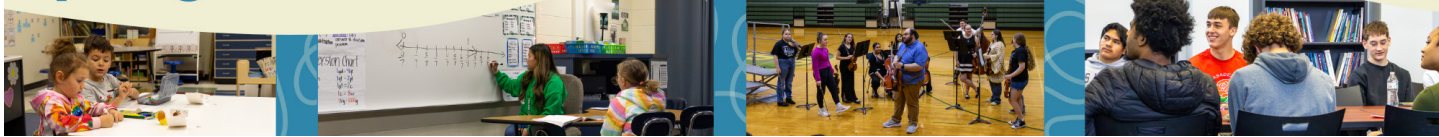


Spring Newsletter



Sharing Our Progress On Strategic Plan Goals

Did you know that Salina Public Schools is not just making progress, but leaping forward towards its Strategic Plan goals?

The three main goals of our Strategic Plan are centered on enhancing students' abilities in critical thinking, communication and social-emotional learning. We are tracking our progress toward these goals through measures that focus on student performance and development.

As we continue to strive for greatness, we're seeing growth and achievement across our district. We are excited to share with you student progress taking place in our schools' environment of excellence.

Communication

Communication skills include writing, speaking, reading and listening. On the Kansas Reading Assessment, all SPS' students' results showed a decrease in Level 1 and an increase in Level 3 or 4.

Writing resources being used in our elementary schools allow classroom instruction to be more focused and purposeful. "Students are learning more detailed information about grammar and sentence structure," explained Patricia Bandré, instructional specialist.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is evaluated by the application and transfer of skills, and is measured by the Kansas State Assessments with math and science tests. Our 2023 math results moved in the right direction. They revealed a decrease in Level 1 and an increase in Level 3 or 4.



KS State Assessment Levels

A student shows...

Level 1: limited ability...

Level 2: basic ability...

Level 3: effective ability...

Level 4: excellent ability...

...to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness.

Our science scores showed a small growth in students performing at Level 3 or 4. The number of students performing at Level 1 increased by one tenth of a percent. We are working to support improved results in our science scores.

Our high schools are responding with many strategies including a focus on foundational math concepts (graphing, data analysis and basic math skills).

"Reteaching strategies ensure earth/space science students who don't pass the class are placed into a recovery class," added Larry Nutter, science department chairperson and biology teacher at South High School. "And, a project or storyline format is incorporated into science classes for increased student ownership and understanding the activity's relevance to everyday life."

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In science, math and ELA, the district's scores are moving closer to state scores. This success, the gap steadily closing, is a focus district-wide.

Social-Emotional

Social-emotional skills promote positive relationships, work habits and attitudes. They include self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness and relationship skills. Progress is not evaluated by the state assessment. Instead, measures used are the rate of chronic absenteeism, the number of social-emotional related behavior offenses and progress on the SPS Self-Directed Learning Rubric.

Strong improvement was seen in a lowered rate of chronic absenteeism. There was a nearly 10 percent improvement in the number of students chronically absent from 2021-22 to 2022-23. We are still working to decrease the social-emotional related behavior offenses and have increased professional development to support this.

Our work toward achieving our goals is a continuous pursuit of greatness. Each success is thanks to collective efforts of educators, students, families and the broader community. Together, we remain committed to providing an outstanding learning environment for our students.

