

Delta Kappa Gamma  
September 13, 2010

Dr. Diane M. DeBacker, Interim  
Commissioner of Education

**PLAINTIFFS'**  
**EX. 108**

KSDE141132



# THANK YOU!

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As leaders in schools, you've had a really tough year. We know it. There's been over \$300 million of cuts to schools and you and your programs have, unfortunately, not gone untouched. From the bottom of my heart, I say 'thank you'. Many of you do the work of two or three people. Parents and staff look to you for guidance. Most particularly, parents of students who struggle in school put much trust and faith into your guidance and what you can do for their child. It's a tremendous responsibility and I thank you. The students with disabilities, and ALL students in Kansas, are beneficiaries of you choosing to do one of the most demanding and challenging jobs of all.

## It's Been a Tough Year Budget cuts have resulted in . . .

- \* Cuts to:
  - \* Before school programs
  - \* After school programs
  - \* Summer school
  - \* Fine arts offerings
  - \* All-day kindergarten
  - \* Shortened school day
  - \* Shortened school year
- \* Professional development
- \* Delay of textbook purchases
- \* Delay of school bus purchases
- \* Increased pupil-teacher ratios
- \* Closure of buildings

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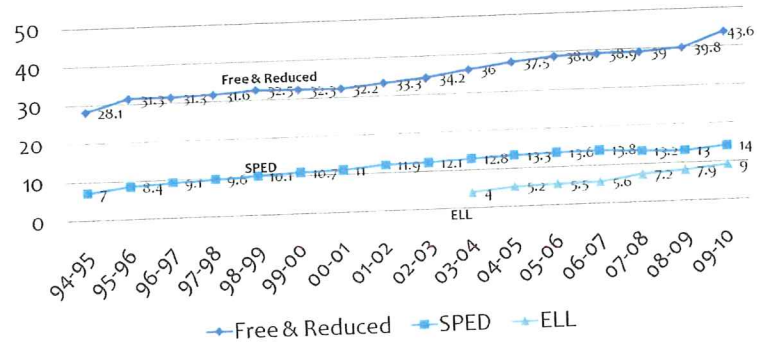
Here's what we know happened across the state.

## Student Achievement Continues to Increase!

- \* Student achievement on State Assessments in math and reading continues to increase for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row despite the targets also increasing
- \* Student achievement on national assessments continues to place Kansas among the top

Despite all the cuts and sacrifices, student achievement continues to increase. 10 years in a row!

## Kansas Student Population Trends (Percent of K-12 Enrollment)



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Achievement continues to increase despite challenges in these subgroups where we have see numbers increase this past year.

## Subjects Assessed

\* 264,741 Reading (Grades 3-8, HS)

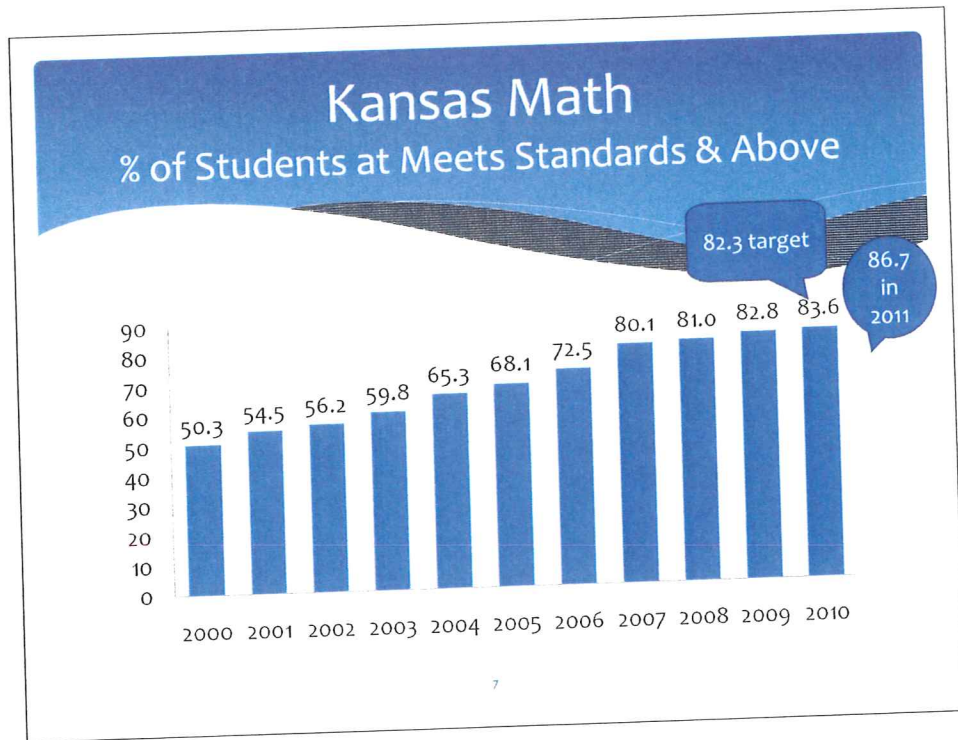
\* 267,912 Math (Grades 3-8, HS)

\* 72,149 Science (Grades 4, 7, HS)

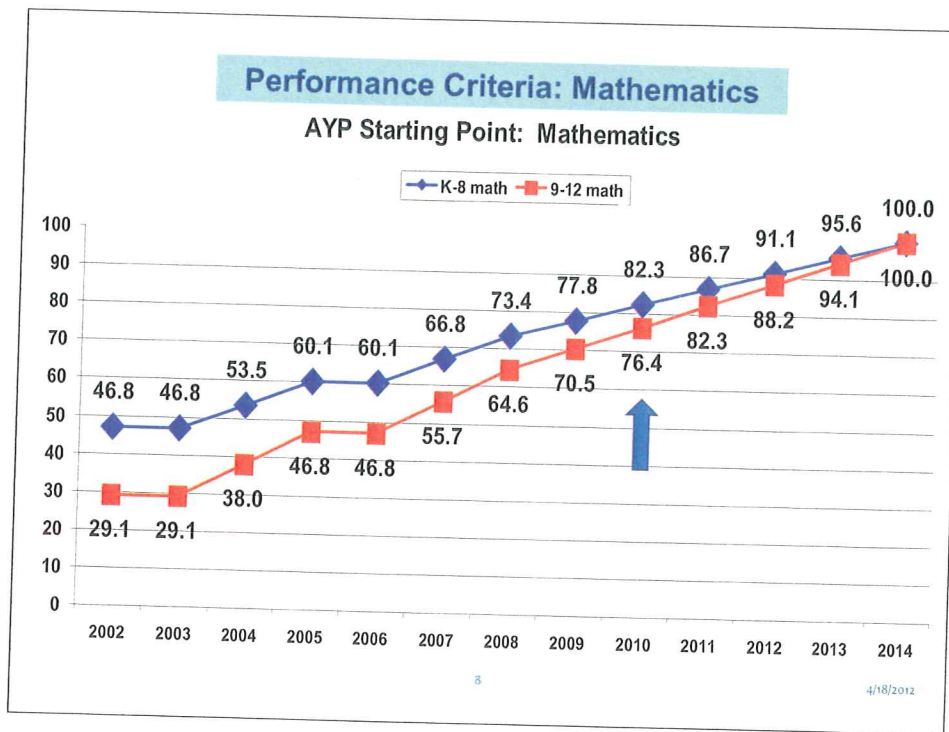
\* 39,544 KELPA

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And, while I hate to say it, much too much of our focus is on state assessments. Just look at the volume of assessments given in Kansas this past year. No wonder you're tired!

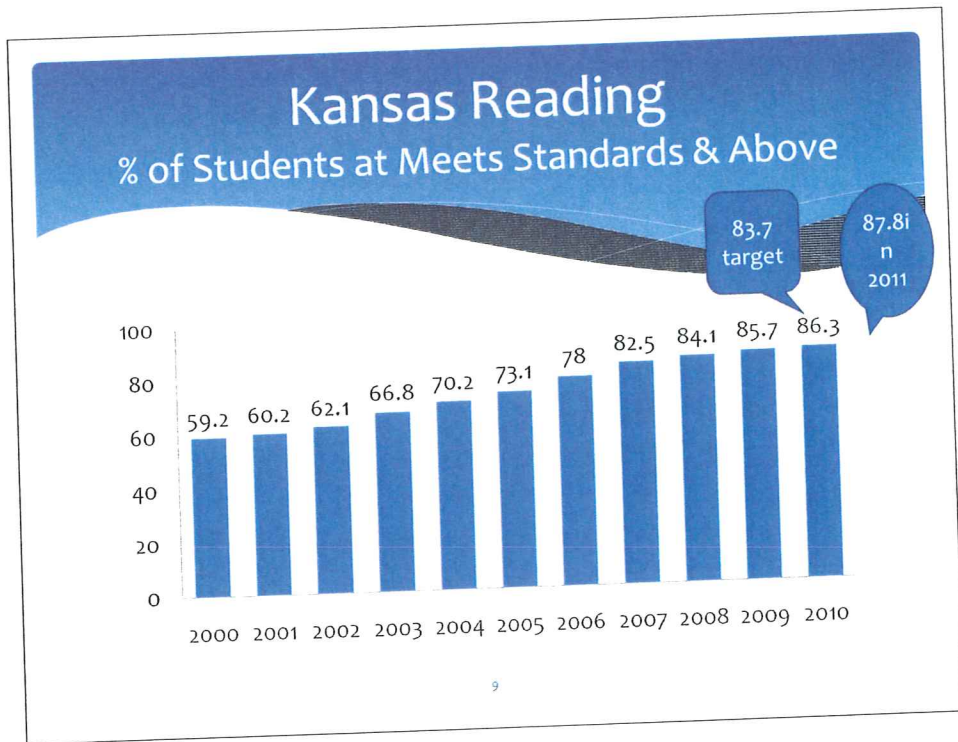


Now, don't tell anyone you've seen this slide because the 2010 data has not been released. As Dale Dennis would say, "just between us family members!" Because of the work of you and your colleagues across this state, student achievement in math continued to increase once again.

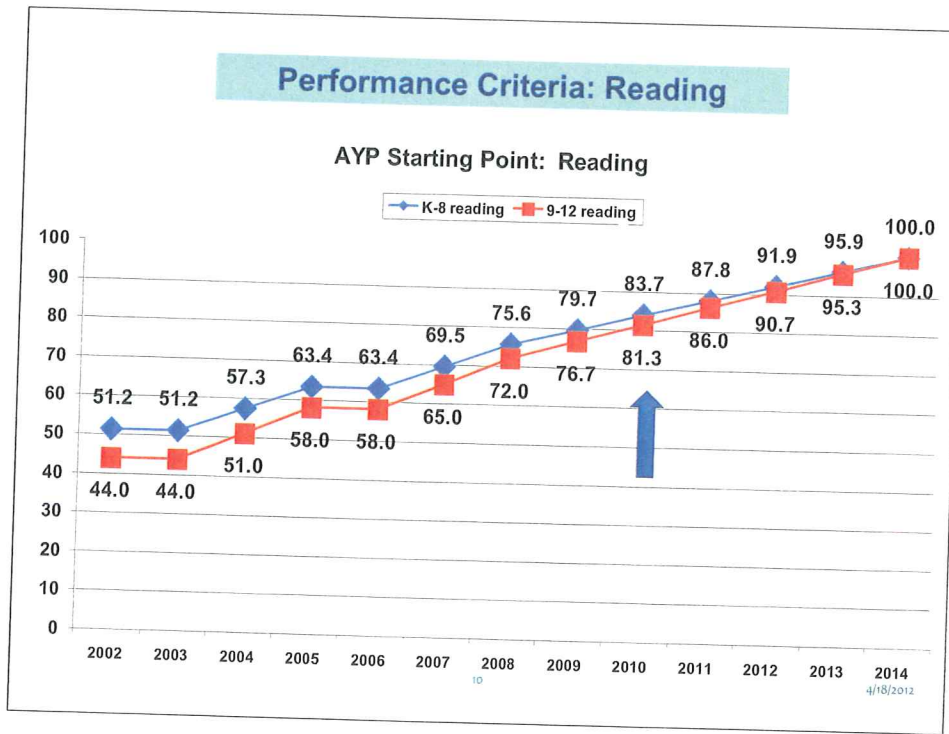


And the bar's getting higher. You've all seen this slide before. We're getting dangerously close to not meeting our goal.





The trend continues in Reading with another increase this year.



But, again, there's not much wiggle room.

## Top Ten Issues in Education

1. Reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)	2. Common core standards
3. New generation of assessments – including common assessments	4. Competitive vs. formula grants
5. Rural education	6. School improvement options
7. Teachers & leaders – move from highly qualified to effective	8. Economy
9. Elections – Governor, House of Representatives, 5 State Board of Education members	10. Kansas Education Commission

Review the Top Ten Issues in Education.

## #1 – Reauthorization of ESEA

- \* Currently known as No Child Left Behind
- \* Reauthorization being driven by the *Blueprint for Reform*
- \* Expected Spring 2011
- \* Will change what happens in our classrooms

## #2 - Common Core Standards

- \* Result of 48 states comparing standards
- \* Spearheaded by the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governor's Association (NGA)
- \* Began in Summer 2009
- \* Final standards in English Language Arts and Math released in June 2010
- \* Fewer, clearer and higher standards
- \* States can adopt these or use their own
- \* State Board of Education may adopt in October

## #3 – New Generation Assessments

- \* With new standards comes new assessments
- \* Will be adaptive and have a performance-based aspect
- \* Will be able to pull out other scores; e.g. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills scores and technical education scores
- \* Working with the SMARTER/Balanced Consortium (of over 30 states) to develop the new assessments

## #4 – Competitive vs. Formula Grants

- \* USDE moving funds from the competitive pot of money to the formula pot
- \* Allows flexibility
- \* Allows access to more funds
- \* Actually hurts small states like Kansas. Example: Race To The Top, I3, Charter Schools

## #5 – Rural Education

- \* Rural states and frontier states
- \* Concerns evident in the options for school improvement grants
  - \* Closure
  - \* Restart
  - \* Turnaround
  - \* Transformation



## #6 – School Improvement Options

- \* See issue #5
- \* Kansas Learning Network (KLN) is an example of the flexibility desired by small, rural states for options for technical assistance for schools and/or districts on improvement.

## #7 – Highly Qualified to Highly Effective

- \* Highly qualified under NCLB
- \* Highly effective under reauthorization of ESEA
- \* Highly effective must include student achievement

## #8 - Economy

\*Need I say more?!

## #9 - Elections

- \* Governor
- \* House of Representatives (all up for re-election)
- \* State Board of Education (half are up for re-election)

## #10 – Kansas Education Commission

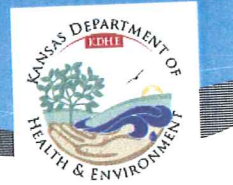
- \* Established by the State Board of Education in May 2010
- \* Thoroughly examine the key priorities of the Blueprint for Reform
  - \* College & career ready students
  - \* Great teachers & leaders in every school
  - \* Equity & opportunity for all students
  - \* Raise the bar and reward excellence
  - \* Promote innovation & continuous improvement

## #10 – Cont'd

- \* Areas to be examined.
  - \* QPA
  - \* Teacher preparation, licensure, PD, compensation, retention
  - \* School finance
  - \* Charter school statute
  - \* State accountability system with ESEA
  - \* Data systems
  - \* Subgroup populations
  - \* Technical assistance
  - \* Virtual schools
  - \* MTSS
  - \* Qualified Admissions
  - \* Safe & healthy schools

# Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention

July 2010 – January 2011



## Background Information

- \* Established on June 15, 2010 by Executive Order of Governor Parkinson
- \* Co-chaired by **Rod Bremby**, Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment and **Diane DeBacker**, Interim Commissioner of Education



## Mission

- \* Examine and make recommendations on issues related to graduation and dropping out. The Kansas Commission aims to bring a **comprehensive solution** to the issues through a **collaboration** of businesses, schools, community organizations, parents, state agencies and youth.

## Membership

- \* Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
- \* Kansas Association of School Boards
- \* Kansas National Education Association
- \* Business or industry
- \* Faith community
- \* Armed forces
- \* Non-profit agency
- \* Community representative

## Membership – cont'd

- \* High school principal
- \* Youth representative
- \* Parent organization
- \* Superintendent
- \* Foundation representative
- \* A district judge recommended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas
- \* Members of the Kansas legislature

## Membership – cont'd

- \* Kansas Department of Commerce
- \* Kansas Department of Corrections
- \* Kansas Department of Health & Enviro.
- \* Kansas Department of Labor
- \* Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitative Services
- \* Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority
- \* Kansas State Department of Education

## Membership – cont'd

- \* Kansas Board of Regents
- \* Kansas State Board of Education
- \* Kansas African American Affairs Commission
- \* Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission
- \* Office of the Governor

# Purpose 1

- \* Setting a goal and timeline for reducing the statewide annual dropout rate

## Purpose 2

- \* Further developing early indicator systems to identify students who are at risk of dropping out, or who are not likely to graduate on time from high school without receiving additional support, and school policies that exacerbate dropping out

## Purpose 3

- \* Expanding the definition of “structured learning time” to include internships and work-study programs and exploring ways to encourage school districts to incorporate quality internships, work and learning programs into structured learning time to engage all students in relevant and rigorous curriculum



## Purpose 4

- \* Exploring state policies and practices relating to attendance, discipline, grading, retention, promotion, credit recovery, compulsory attendance age, the awarding of the General Equivalency Diploma (“GED”) and the use of alternative schools

## Purpose 5

- \* Providing financial incentives for districts that are effective in graduating at-risk students and recovering high school dropouts

## Purpose 6

- \* Establishing a threshold annual dropout rate for each school district such that rates in excess of threshold levels would establish a mandatory requirement on districts to adopt and implement a district-wide action plan to reduce dropout rates and effectively track students

## Purpose 7

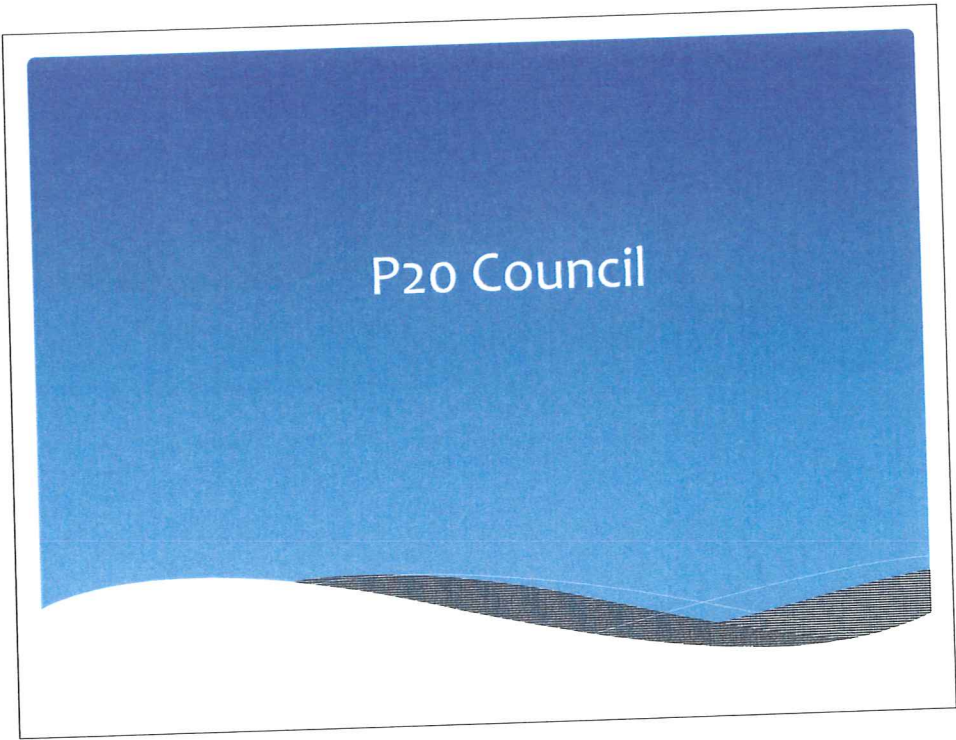
- \* Identifying additional areas for improvement and multi-sector collaboration

## Purpose 8

- \* Exploring funding sources (public, private and non-profit) and identify resources that may be available to sustain the work and recommendation of the Commission

## Meeting Dates

- \* August 12, 2010
- \* September 23, 2010
- \* October 22, 2010
- \* November 15, 2010
- \* December 10, 2010
- \* January 4, 2010



## Background Information

- \* Established in April 2008 by Executive Order of Governor Sebelius directing that the Council:
  - \* Establish a vision statement, mission statement & guiding principles that reflect the needs of the education system;
  - \* Create a shared plan for reaching the vision and establish benchmarks to promote the Council's commitment to success;
  - \* Focus on standards-based improvement in P20 policy and program coherence and coordination among the state department of education, school districts, postsecondary institutions, state department of commerce, businesses, communities and foundations.



## Membership

- \* Co-chairs – Christine Downey-Schmidt and Bill Wagnon
- \* Diane DeBacker – KSDE
- \* Andy Tompkins – KBOR
- \* Brenda Dietrich, representing the United School Administrators of Kansas
- \* Barry Downing, CEO of Northrock, Inc.
- \* Terry Dunn, CEO of JE Dunn Construction,
- \* Dick Hedges, Kansas Board of Regents

## Membership – cont'd

- \* Deena Horst, representing the House Education Committee
- \* Jennifer Knorr, representing the Governor's office
- \* Gail Kuehl, Owner/Operator of Kuehl Operations, Hays
- \* Janis Lee, representing the Senate Education Committee
- \* Jan Long, representing the Kansas Parent Teacher Association
- \* Melissa Ness, representing the Kansas Children's Cabinet
- \* Doug Penner, representing the Kansas Association of Independent Colleges
- \* Linda Robinson, President of USD 497 School Board, Lawrence, as a member at-large

## Membership – cont'd

- \* Pam Robinson, representing the Kansas Association of School Boards
- \* Jean Schodorf, representing the Senate Education Committee
- \* Sue Storm, representing the House Education Committee
- \* Bill Thorton, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce
- \* Janet Waugh, representing the Kansas State Board of Education
- \* Blake West, representing the Kansas Teacher's Association

## Vision & Mission

- \* Vision - Develop an integrated high quality educational system that prepares Kansas for life and work.
- \* Mission – Prepare students for success in life from preschool to graduate school and/or work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by identifying, in partnership with all stakeholders, system approaches that support, cultivate and/or sustain a collaborative, seamless system of education.

## Goal

- \* Develop a shared plan that builds a statewide network for increased collaboration, information sharing and cooperation across all levels of education and business and industry.

## Objectives

- \* Identify the current capacity within the system;
- \* Identify the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the learning activities that support the needs of the workforce and industry;
- \* Align high academic standards and teaching and learning practices for Pre-K-12 students with postsecondary education and with business and industry standards; and
- \* Assess the skills, knowledge and dispositions needed for success within the next level of education/work.

## Accomplishments

- \* Governor's Executive Order allowing KSDE and KBOR to share data in developing a longitudinal data base;
- \* Formed an alignment team to study the gap between high school and postsecondary education in the areas of math and English language arts

## Accomplishments – cont'd

- \* Proposed three recommendations to strengthen early childhood education in Kansas
  - \* Improve teacher and provider quality through coordination & collaboration at the state and local levels;
  - \* Promote coordination at the state and local levels to build a continuum of services and education from birth to grade three;
  - \* Coordinate data collection and analysis and use results to promote evidence-based practices



## Next Steps

- \* Identify current capacity
  - \* Emphasizing both access and success in postsecondary education;
  - \* Focus on broad definition of success; e.g. meaningful credentials, associate, bachelor, post-baccalaureate degrees;
  - \* Encourage legislators to provide financial support for part-time students; meet needs of adult learners

## Next Steps – Cont'd

- \* 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for workforce and industry
  - \* Provide incentives to promote STEM majors; e.g., scholarships, loan forgiveness, tuition reimbursement
- \* Alignment
  - \* Integrate/link data systems from KSDE, KBOR, Labor, Commerce, Adult Education, public workforce
  - \* Promote system-level confidence of a credit transfer system
- \* Collaborative network
  - \* Promote collaboration between Commerce and Adult Basic Education to both postsecondary educational opportunities and workforce needs

## Future?

- \* P20 Council will expire at the end of Governor Parkinson's term
- \* Will a new Governor establish another P20 Council or continue with the current one?