



FACT SHEET

2026 KANSAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas

July 13-18, 2026

Completed applications due by **FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

What kind of students participate in the Youth Leadership Forum?

Young people with disabilities who would want to discover their potential for leadership.

What will happen at the Forum?

We will....

- Bring together young people with disabilities to share information with each other. Includes such topics as leadership, goal setting, communication, disability awareness, advocacy, disability heritage, and much more.
- Involve numerous presenters, community leaders, legislators and other professionals who will interact with the students.
- Identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal effectively with those barriers.
- Assist in developing a "Personal Leadership Plan" which will include specific action plans for the students when they return to their communities.
- Participate in activities such as: small group discussions with fellow delegates, large group presentations by successful community leaders, a formal luncheon with community mentors, a picture and tour at the State Capitol, an activity in the Senate chambers, a resource fair and Real Life Fair, a talent show, and a dance.

What are the requirements to attend this Forum?

To be eligible for the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, students must:

- (a) Reside in Kansas
- (b) Have a disability (as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act)
- (c) Be in the 11th or 12th grade, or in an 18-21 transition program, as of February 20, 2026
- (d) Have demonstrated leadership potential or interest in school and the community

What is involved in the application process?

Student applicants must mail the completed application packet to the KYEA office no later than February 20. Semi-finalists will be selected and contacted by telephone to arrange a personal interview. All applicants will be notified by letter whether they are selected to attend the Forum. Approximately 20-25 youth will be accepted to attend based on this competitive selection process. Additional detailed information on the Forum will be provided to those selected to attend.

Cost:

There will be NO charge for student delegates or volunteers to participate in this Forum. All appropriate expenses will be paid by KYEA, including lodging, food, interpreters for students who are deaf, personal care attendants, and other accommodations, if needed.

Transportation:

Due to rising costs, parents or guardians who can provide transportation for their students are asked to do so. If assistance is needed, KYEA staff can make arrangements for transportation to be provided by a resource in the student's community.

*For additional information, please contact the KYEA office
at 785.380.8163, email: carrieg@kyea.org, or visit www.kyea.org.*