

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

We're equipping the Education Funding Task Force with research, business perspectives, and policy expertise to ensure Kansas's school finance system is both accountable and student-centered. By evaluating the funding formula through the lens of outcomes and efficiency, we're helping leaders pursue reforms that strengthen student success and sustain long-term workforce growth.

DATA-INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Aligned is helping policymakers understand how a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) can transform decision-making. By connecting data across education and workforce systems, Kansas can better measure what's working, identify gaps, and target resources where they make the greatest impact. Smarter data leads to stronger outcomes for students, families, and employers.

PHONE FREE SCHOOLS

We support phone-free schools as a way to strengthen focus, improve instructional time, and create classroom environments where teachers can thrive and students can succeed. By reducing distractions, Kansas schools can raise academic achievement, improve classroom management, and support teacher recruitment and retention.

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EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Kansas's historic investment in early childhood is a foundation for future workforce success. We're supporting continued progress by streamlining services, cutting red tape, and making child care a viable career pathway. Expanding the state's child care tax credit and building a stronger early childhood workforce will give Kansas families more choice, affordability, and stability—while ensuring employers can depend on a reliable workforce.

LITERACY

Literacy is the foundation of every future workforce skill. Nearly one-third of Kansas students read below grade level, which threatens long-term competitiveness. Through the Blueprint for Literacy (SB 438) and LETRS training for teachers, Kansas is making structured literacy a priority. We're working to expand evidence-based instruction, targeted supports, and professional development to ensure all students master reading, the gateway to opportunity.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are advancing policies that increase transparency and align accountability systems around student outcomes. By focusing on clear, measurable results, Kansas can build public trust and ensure that education investments translate into stronger students, stronger communities, and a stronger workforce.