



# Kansas State High School Activities Association

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Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

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TO: KSHSAA Member School Superintendents and Principals (High School & Middle School)

FROM: Cheryl Gleason, Assistant Executive Director & KAY State Director  
Gary Musselman, Executive Director

RE: **KESA AND THE KAY PROGRAM – EDUCATING KANSAS STUDENTS TOGETHER**

The KSHSAA is aware of the new Kansas Accreditation System (KESA) that will be implemented by all school districts in our state. In reviewing the details of this new system we understand the KSBE has put in place a "5 R's" Framework to be used in measuring performance. Other areas that seem to stand out are the SECD Standards (Social, Emotional, Character Development) and Civic Engagement.

As you know, the KSHSAA serves Kansas students by providing leadership for the administration of education based interscholastic activities. A student-centered organization, the Association believes that activities play an important role in providing our young people with memorable experiences as they mold their character and receive lifelong skills.

The KSHSAA has one program in particular that fits many expectations in place for KESA and that is the KAY Program. KAY (Kansas Association for Youth) is a character-building, leadership-training, service organization that has served thousands of Kansas students over the past 70 years. The life lessons, leadership skills and an "I Get To" attitude for service student receive from their participation in KAY parallel nicely with the standards and outcomes in place by the KSBE.

Enclosed you will find the following 2 Handouts:

- KESA & The KAY Program: Educating Kansas Students Together
  - ✓ KSBE Expectations for School Districts and what the KAY program has in place; KAY Mission & Belief Statements
- Why KAY? Why Not!
  - ✓ KAY "Did You Know"; Basic Q & A; How to start a KAY Program

We are not suggesting the KAY program is a solution for all of the KESA standards districts will put in place. However, we do believe many of the performance standards you must address are already in place with the KAY program. We would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have about starting a KAY program for your students.

As you continue with your work on implementation of the new accreditation standards, we ask you to give strong consideration to providing a KAY program for your students at your Middle and Senior High Schools.

Best wishes in your ongoing work to help Kansas lead the world in the success of each student.

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