

IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT'S A FACT...

Kids who start school ready to learn and stay on track, particularly in reading and math, experience personal success and strengthen our future workforce.

IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT'S A FACT*:

- In Shawnee County, 30% of children entering kindergarten don't have the basic skills needed to start the learning process;
- The transition to middle school can dramatically affect achievement. For example, math proficiency percentages drop 20% when kids move from 5th to 6th grade in Topeka Public Schools. In Oskaloosa, the drop from 6th to 7th grade is 47%;
- Nearly 14% of our community's kids drop out of school.

Over the next 10 years, we will:

- Increase by 50% the number of children ready to read;
- Reduce by 50% the achievement gap in 3rd grade reading and 6th grade math for our most vulnerable children.

Our IMPACT means:

- Kids enter kindergarten ready to learn;
- Students significantly increase their chance of graduating on time and become independent and productive adults.

When kids are in the zone for reading and math, they are less likely to turn substance abuse into a confidence builder; they are more likely to be aware of their physical condition; they graduate from high school on time and with the right skills, earn a better income and maintain a more stable employment history.

***Early Reading Proficiency.* Lindsay Musen. Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University. (2010) http://www.annenberginstitute.org/pdf/LeadingIndicator_Reading.pdf;

**DIBELS Kindergarten Assessment data for 2009-10 school year.*

**State Assessment Data*

Increasing financial stability of families and individuals dramatically improves the quality of life for everyone in our community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT'S A FACT*:

- 1 out of 3 families in Shawnee County live at or below 200% of the poverty level;
- 51% of children in Shawnee County receive free or reduced lunch. In Topeka Public Schools, it's 74%;
- 1 out of 4 low-income families in Shawnee County spend more than 40% of their income on housing.

Over the next 10 years, we will:

- Cut the number of financially unstable families in our community in half. (*Financially unstable is defined as those spending 40% or more on housing.*)

Our IMPACT means:

- Sustained employment;
- Putting food on the table and being able to pay the bills;
- Developing new ways to help families be self-sufficient.

Secure employment and a stable income helps individuals and families have the opportunity for a higher quality of life. They can envision a better future than their current condition for themselves and their family. Their life moves from survival to success.

** US Census Bureau, American FactFinder, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5 year estimates.*

** http://online.ksde.org/rcard/district.aspx?org_no=D0501&enroll_type=3*

**US Census Bureau, American FactFinder, American Community Survey, 2009*

The reduction in obesity and substance abuse speaks to the improved health and wellness of our community.

IN OUR COMMUNITY, IT'S A FACT*:

- More than six out of 10 adults are overweight or obese; and that number is increasing;
- Obesity is a major factor in heart disease, high blood pressure and the root cause of many other chronic illnesses;
- During the past month, nearly 1 out of 3 students admitted to using alcohol, starting in just the 6th grade.

Over the next 10 years, we will:

- Reduce by 10 % the number of adults who are overweight or obese;
- Reduce by 20% the number of 6th through 12th graders who illegally use alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana.

Our IMPACT means:

- Affecting the rising cost of healthcare, insurance and prescription drugs for individuals and families;
- Developing new, healthy habits—intervention leads to a different outcome;
- Preventing abuse and addiction of alcohol, cigarettes and other drugs;
- Maintaining safe places for physical activities and access to healthy, affordable food.

Better nutrition and healthy habits help everyone. Healthy adults are less likely to be absent from work and have less costly health needs. They pass on healthy lifestyles to their children.

Prevention of substance abuse in school-age children means more students are positively engaged in school and achieve high school graduation on time. This leads to a better future for them and a skilled workforce to attract new business for our community.

**2009 Kansas Data Results – Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), CDC
Obesity major factor...: Healthy People 2020 – Reference: National Institutes of Health (NIH); National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Clinical guidelines on the identification, evaluation, and treatment of overweight and obesity in adults: The evidence report. Bethesda, MD: NIH; 1998.*

**Communities That Care Survey*