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## 2014-15 Enrollment Dates Set

August 6th and 7th USD #257 will hold enrollment for the 2014-15 school year in the Commons area of Iola High School.



Wednesday, August 6th: 10:00 am—8:00 pm  
Thursday, August 7th: 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Tables will be set-up to accommodate the following programs and grade levels:

*Parents as Teachers* - This is our new 0-3 early education program that is open to anyone in our district.

*Windsor Pre-School* - Our 4-year old At-Risk program in which we have 28 slots available for students that qualify.

*HeadStart* - is an early education program serving income eligible families 0-5. Services are available to pregnant women from conception to birth.

*Kindergarten* - Please bring birth certificate, immunization records, social security card, and your address to enroll your child. Also visit the Food Service table to pick up menus and free and reduced lunch forms before checking out.

*Elementary* - Please visit the table of the elementary school your child attended last year. If your student is new, bring their birth certificate, immunization records, social security card and your address.

*Middle School and High School* - Visit these tables if you have a child attending to finalize class schedules.

*Food Service* - All parents need to stop by the Food Service table to pick-up menus, pay for meals, pick-up/fill out free and reduced lunch forms, get a copy of the new Food Service Policies and get to know our new food service management company, OPAA!

*Transportation* - Everyone who lives 2.5 miles from their attendance center should fill out a bus enrollment information form even if you are not planning to ride the bus. Also check-out the capabilities of our new security cameras that will be installed on many of our busses.

## OPPA! Food Service Coming to USD #257



### The Power of Choice

With OPAA! working with over 100 schools in Missouri and over 20 of the 30 schools in Kansas

that have food service management companies, USD #257 is excited about the possibilities that experience can bring to our students.

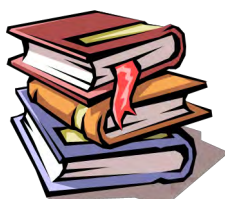
High school and middle school students will get a choice of at least 4 reimbursable meals including an international bar (Mexican, Italian, Asian, etc.), Pizza/Hamburger Days, Salad Bar and traditional entrée choices. Elementary students will get at least three reimbursable meal choices. All students will be offered at least three breakfast choices and everyone will be offered multiple servings from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable bar daily. Stop by the OPAA! table at enrollment for menus and more information!



## USD #257 Website has a New Look!

USD #257 has a new website. Brett Linn, Technology Director for USD #257 launched the new site July 1st. It also sports a new Iola logo designed by the Assistant Technology Director

Sean Linn. Also, be looking for the new USD #257 app for your smart phone that will be available soon. It will be the easiest way to stay in touch with your student's school. Download the app at enrollment...we will show you how!



## Curriculum Corner

*Each newsletter we are going to devote a segment that will answer a question about curriculum in general and Common Core Standards in particular. In Kansas these are now called the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards. USD 257 has written and implemented curriculum that is aligned to these standards in the subjects of Math and English Language Arts.*

### Are the Standards a new national curriculum? Do they remove local and state authority, or tell teachers what to teach?

No. The Common Core State Standards do not dictate the details of academic curriculum; they only provide clear expectations for what each student must know to leave school prepared for college and career.

Standards equal the end goal, or the WHAT.....Curriculum equals HOW.....These terms are not interchangeable.

Curriculum is a broad term that encompasses everything a teacher uses in the classroom from lesson plans to activities, to reading and math units. In most school districts, curriculum is determined at the local level. The CCSS only set the goal; they do not tell teachers how to achieve the goal, but they will allow teachers to share best practices from state to state.

## Hunter Safety Course at IMS Gains National Attention



The Hunter Safety Course taught as an elective 9-week course at Iola Middle School, under the direction of John Wilson, recently gained national attention as it was the focus of an article in the *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal*. All "hands on" training is done at a separate location and no firearms ever enter school facilities.

With the rising cost of firearms and the current difficulty to find ammunition it is likely many kids without access to an equipped mentor might face financial problems with the start-up costs of hunting. The Hunter Education Course lets them try it out.



## 2014 State FFA Career Development Competition

Iola FFA competed in the state career development events held on the campus of Kansas State University May 4th through May 6th.

Results are as follows:

**Food Science:** Colton Storrer and Baylea Thompson silver division; team was 22nd out of 64.

**Dairy Cattle:** Brooklyn Storrer and Alexis Hobbs silver division, Colton Heffern bronze division; team was 15th out of 48.

**Poultry:** Wyatt Hines silver division; team was 17th out of 44.

**Livestock:** Caitlin Dreher 9th, Colton Heffern and Gus Hopkins silver division, Brock Peters bronze division; Team was 4th out of 85. There were a total of 289 contestants.

Others competing were Adam Kauth, Clara Wicoff, Hannah Ingle, Lexie Long, Baleigh Seeber and Cassie Delich.

## Band Banquet and Fundraiser a Success

When you start something new you never know how it is

going to be received or how it is going to go. When Matt Kleopfer envisioned starting an annual Iola Band Banquet and Hall of Fame he couldn't have imagined it any better than what took place last May.



The middle school and high school jazz bands played to a packed house after some catered BBQ from Dudley's followed by a pie and prize auction. Mr. K handed out some

well-deserved awards to his students but the highlight of the evening was the induction of the first two people in the Iola Band Hall of Fame. Mr. Dale Creitz and Mrs. Julie Tidd.

Mr. Creitz, who put Iola Band on the map and established a tradition excellence and Mrs. Tid who continued that tradition and dedicated her life to music in Allen County.



## Practice Marathon Fund-raiser

Almost 50 Iola student musicians started the Iola Practice Marathon Fund-raiser and after 14 hours and 5 minutes three winners were left: Braden Plumlee, Allison Hobbs, and Justice Boll. The event was held at the Band Stand on the Iola Square. The students through their efforts raised \$5,660 for the Iola Band Program.





## Last Days of School





# State Tax Revenue Shortfalls— What Does it Mean for Schools?

State general fund receipts for May were \$217 million below expectations, on top a of \$92 million shortfall in April. What does that mean for the state budget and education funding? The state general fund can handle the shortfall in the short term, but the long-term impact will likely further limit K-12 funding.

As illustrated in the chart below from the Kansas Legislative Research Department, the official consensus revenue estimate (CRE) released in mid-April projected the state general fund (SGF) would have \$5.96 billion in receipts this fiscal year, which ends June 30. That was down about \$300 million from last year as a result of state income tax cuts. However, the SGF began the year with a balance of over \$700 million. With expenditures of just under \$6 million - also reduced from the previous year - the SGF was still expected to have a healthy FY 2014 ending balance of \$695 million, or 11.6%.

STATE GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURES AND BALANCES  
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE 2014 APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
As of Friday, May 02, 2014

|   | Actual<br>FY 2013 | Conference Committee<br>FY 2014 | Conference Committee<br>FY 2015 |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Beginning Balance                                 | \$ 502.9          | \$ 709.3                        | \$ 695.1                        |
| Receipts (April 2014 Consensus)                   | 6,341.1           | 5,959.8                         | 5,991.4                         |
| Governor's Recommended Adjustments                | 0.0               | (9.7)                           | 4.7                             |
| Other Legislative Recommended Receipt Adjustments | 0.0               | 34.2                            | (27.7)                          |
| Adjusted Receipts                                 | 6,341.1           | 5,984.3                         | 5,968.4                         |
| Total Available                                   | \$ 6,844.0        | \$ 6,693.6                      | \$ 6,663.5                      |
| Less Expenditures                                 | 6,134.8           | 5,998.5                         | 6,272.9                         |
| Ending Balance                                    | \$ 709.3          | \$ 695.1                        | \$ 390.7                        |
| Ending Balance as a Percentage of Expenditures    | 11.6%             | 11.6%                           | 6.2%                            |

The actual receipts for April and May, however, indicate that the June 30 ending balance could be closer to \$385 million, or 6.4%. The real impact would be in Fiscal Year 2015, which was projected to have an ending balance of \$391 million. Assuming receipts this June (the last month of FY 2014) and receipts for all of 2015 are exactly as projected by the April CRE, the FY 2015 ending balance would drop to approximately \$80 million or less than 1.3 percent.

The Brownback administration's spokesmen say the drop in April and May is a one-time event, due to investors taking capital gains in 2012, which reduced their income in 2013 and therefore income tax revenues in 2013-14. In fact, there is little evidence that the overall Kansas economy is slumping. On the other hand, despite the tax cuts, the April CRE projected Kansas personal income to grow at a lower rate than the national average in both 2014 and 2015.

Assuming that shortfall was a one-time occurrence as the administration believes and the revenue forecast for 2015 is accurate, state general fund revenues will have to increase at least \$200 million in 2016 to avoid a deficit, a growth rate of 3.4 percent. However, the Kansas economy will have to grow at an even faster rate to generate that much revenue, because another income tax rate cut will take effect in 2016. Even that growth rate would leave no ending balance and provide no additional funding for state programs, including a scheduled increase in KPERS contributions; payments of bond issues approved by voters, increased state aid to match local option budgets, and rising special education costs. This does not include ANY increase in base state aid per pupil for district operating costs, or higher enrollment.

In short, even if the shortfalls of the past two months are temporary, the outlook for state school funding beyond next year is likely to be extremely challenging unless the state economy begins to grow far more rapidly than current projections.

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## Upcoming Events

July 7-24 -  
JumpStart Summer  
School

July 7-11  
7th & 8th Grade  
Volleyball Camp

July 14-18th -  
Pony Football Camp

August 6-7  
School Enrollment @  
IHS Commons

August 11-15  
Summer Conditioning

August 13  
New Teacher Orienta-  
tion

August 14  
Operations and Plan-  
ning

August 15  
Teacher Professional  
Development

August 18  
First Day of Athletic  
Practices

Teacher Professional  
Development

August 19  
Teacher Workday

August 20  
First Day of Classes  
Pre-School-6th & 9th

August 21  
First Day of Classes  
7th-8th, 10th-12th