



Quality Performance Accreditation QPA

What General Information Should You Know?

- Kansas accredits K-12 schools according to Kansas Accreditation **Regulations (KAR) 91-31-31 through 91-21-42**. These regulations are collectively known as **Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA)**.
- A school is assigned its accreditation status annually based upon **Performance** and **Quality Criteria**.
- **Performance Criteria** are based upon student performance and participation related to state assessments, elementary attendance rate and high school graduation rate.
- **Quality Criteria** are based upon eleven specific processes, programs, and policies required to be in place in each school

What are the Performance Criteria?

KAR 91-31-32 (b) (1) – (4)

- **Student Performance:** Percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard on reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing, state assessments or demonstrating increased overall student achievement using the expected gains formula;
- **Participation Rate:** Having 95% or more of all students and 95% or more of each student group take the state assessments;
- **Attendance Rate:** Elementary school – having an attendance rate equal to 90% or an improvement over the previous year;
- **Graduation Rate:** High school – 75% or an improvement over the previous year.

What are the Quality Criteria?

KAR 91-31-32 (c)

- A school improvement plan that includes a results-based staff development plan;
- An external technical assistance team (ETAT);
- Locally determined assessments that are aligned with the state standards;
- Formal training for teachers regarding the state assessments and curriculum standards;
- 100% of the teachers assigned to teach in those areas assessed by the state or described as core academic areas by the USDOE, and 95% or more of all other faculty, must be fully certified for the positions they hold;
- Policies that meet the requirements of Kansas Accreditation Regulation 91-31-34 regarding substitute teachers, minimum enrollment, student credit, records retention, and interscholastic athletics;

- Local graduation requirements that include at least those requirements imposed by the state board (HS only);
- Curricula that allow each student to meet the regent's qualified admissions requirements and the state scholarship program (HS only);
- Programs and services to support student learning and growth at both the elementary and secondary level;
- Specified programs and services to provide equal access to support student learning and growth (HS only);
- Local policies ensuring compliance with other accreditation regulations and state laws.

What is Accreditation Status? KAR 91-31-38

Based upon how a school meets the Performance and Quality Criteria, it will be classified as one of the following:

- **Accredited** - Meets minimum performance and quality criteria.
- **Accredited On Improvement** - For 2 consecutive years the school fails to meet performance criteria for one or more assessed student group(s) or fails to meet three or more quality criteria.
- **Conditional Accredited** - For 3 consecutive years fails to meet performance criteria for the **all** student group or fails to meet four or more quality criteria
- **Not Accredited** - For 5 consecutive years fails to meet performance criteria for the **all** student group or fails to meet four or more quality criteria.

Appeals Process: KAR 91-31-37 (c) – (e)

- If a school's local board of education disagrees with an accreditation status recommendation, that board may file an appeal with the Kansas Commissioner of Education within fifteen days after the receipt of the recommendation.

Rewards: KAR 91-31-39

- A school that attains the status of Accredited receives notification of accreditation from the state board and a press release announcing that school's accreditation status.

Sanctions: KAR 91-31-40

- One or more sanctions may be applied by the state board to a school that is conditionally accredited or not accredited.



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Appointed State Technical Assistance Team (STAT): KAR 91-31-36 (b)

- If a school is accredited on improvement or conditionally accredited, the district in conjunction with the school will recruit membership on the STAT and submit that membership to the state who will appoint the STAT. The STAT assists the school in meeting the performance and quality criteria established by the state board. The state technical assistance team shall determine the number of on-site visits that the team makes to the school. This team shall remain assigned to the school until the school either attains accredited status or is not accredited. The STAT could and in many cases should include the school's current External Technical Assistance Team.

State Assessments Required for QPA

- History / Government – Grades 6, 8, HS
- Mathematics – Grades 3,4,5,6,7,8, HS
- Reading – Grades 3,4,5,6,7,8, HS
- Science – Grades 4,7,HS
- Writing – Grades 5,8,11

Additional Resources

See Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Fact Sheet.
See QPA State Technical Assistance Team Fact Sheet.
See QPA Expected Gain Fact Sheet.