



“Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids” Watch and Talk Party PARTICIPANT GUIDE

OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Our world is changing, and Kansas students need to be prepared to meet that change. The conversation about how that should be accomplished within our public school system is a very large and multifaceted topic. It will require a great deal of discussion among educational leaders, policymakers, business representatives, parents, educators and tax payers.

“Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids” is a one hour television program produced by KLFA and KTWU, Channel 11. It features three different panels (educators, parents and business representatives) discussing their thoughts on educational priorities in Kansas in order for students to be prepared for the 21st century. The show was originally broadcast simultaneously on all Kansas PBS stations September 23, 2009 and has enjoyed several subsequent airings.

The television program serves as a conversation starter for “Watch and Talk” (W/T) Parties. “Watch and Talk” (W/T) Parties can be as small as neighbors getting together or they can be larger events open to the general community. Many were held immediately after the airings and at other times using DVDs of the program or viewing it on iTunes University. It is imperative that local citizens continue to engage their community in this important conversation. KLFA is gathering feedback from the W/T Parties so that the voices of all participants can be heard. Make sure you and your community are part of the conversation!

The Watch and Talk Party Goals Are To:

- 1) Discuss with your friends and neighbors the future of public education for Kansas children and share your ideas and conclusions.
- 2) Share personal stories about education that can be used to illustrate what your vision of a quality, affordable (21st Century) education looks like for all Kansas children.

Ground Rules for Watch and Talk Party:

- Respect: Every attendee should be treated with respect; no one should feel that their views were ignored or dismissed without being heard. Vigorous debate is encouraged, and attendees can disagree without being disagreeable.
- Empower: Whenever possible, entrust attendees with responsibility over the meeting’s procedure and its substantive contribution. These meetings are not occasions for “experts” to listen to “everyday people” and then decide what is best. They are an opportunity for attendees to come together to diagnose the educational challenges facing their community and propose solutions.

- **Include:** Strive to incorporate everyone's concerns and opinions in the discussion and submission. Each attendee's views matter – whatever their background or beliefs. Even when there is disagreement, strive to identify the essential points.

Description of Event:

The host will give a short description of the purpose of the Watch and Talk Party and an introduction to ***Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids***. Then the group will watch the program and, with the help of a moderator, discuss their reactions to it and the questions that it presents. The host or an appointed notetaker will record discussion items points and report them back to KLFA. The total time for the party should be about two hours.

The discussion questions in this document will be used to guide the conversation, and help make sure the agreed timing is followed. Each attendee should have a chance to give input and contribute to what will eventually be submitted online to the KLFA.

The moderator will be listening for Compelling Stories. The host/moderator will submit names, contact information, and a summary of stories with the group submission using an online feedback survey tool.

Each participant will be asked to complete the anonymous survey on page 5 of this document at the end of the W/T party. Your host/moderator will submit a summary of all participant surveys online.

KLFA will review the submissions from all of the gatherings in an effort to bring the voices and concerns of all Kansans to the state's policymakers. On KLFA's behalf, thank you for helping to make this happen by participating in this Watch and Talk Party.

Please consider hosting your own Watch and Talk Party!

Group Discussion Questions (*Moderator will lead the discussion and will provide a brief summary before continuing to next question*):

1. From what you saw, with what do you agree? With what do you disagree? Of what are you not sure?
2. Did any new ideas pop up for you?
3. What do you think the key factors are that make up a worthwhile education (give examples/stories)?

Recommended sources of information reflecting current trends in education and education in Kansas:

The Kansas State Department of Education

Click on the "Parents" link to view the KSDE online parent resources. These include *Public School Reports, the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, Virtual Schools, Child Nutrition and Wellness, Kansas Safe Schools Resource Center* and many more.

URL: <http://www.ksde.org/>

The Kansas Learning First Alliance

Kansas education organizations have joined together to sponsor projects and tools to help educators and others concerned with educating Kansas kids. Get more information on KLFA's current focus and activities: *"working to unite the education community to improve our outstanding public education system, pre-K through higher education, to empower each Kansan to succeed in the diverse, interdependent world of the 21st century"*

URL: <http://www.klfa.org>

The Kansas Department of Education's 21st Century Learning Resources

As Kansas looks to redesign schools by providing visionary educational leaders and effective educators, integrating academic and career/technical education standards, and continuing to improve teaching and learning from Pre-K through 20, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills offers an unprecedented opportunity to engage all stakeholders - students, parents, community, educators, business and industry, and government—in efforts to create innovative opportunities for Kansas students.

URL: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3203>

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills

What are 21st Century skills? The Partnership's online, one-stop-shop for **21st century skills**-related information, resources and community tools defines them as more than learning to read and write.

URL: <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/>

The U. S. Department of Education (ED)

ED's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. Learn about federal policies established on financial aid for education, data on America's schools, educational research, key educational issues, etc.

URL: <http://www.ed.gov/>

Citizens Speak Out on Public Education

What do parents want from the public schools? Do you think you have a better education than your parents did? Education World provides collected information from a Gallup poll given to parents, by Phi Delta Kappa.

URL: http://www.education-world.com/a_issues/issues045.shtml

Edutopia -- What Works in Public Education

Educators will appreciate this web site called Edutopia which promises information and innovation for those teaching in K-12 schools. For each topic featured there are articles, videos and interviews. Priority topics to explore include assessment, emotional intelligence, project-based learning, technology integration and many others.

URL: <http://www.edutopia.org/index.php>

The “Reading, Writing, and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids” broadcast can be downloaded via Washburn University at iTunes University (<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/ktwu.washburn.edu>)

This broadcast has been sponsored by:

KLFA

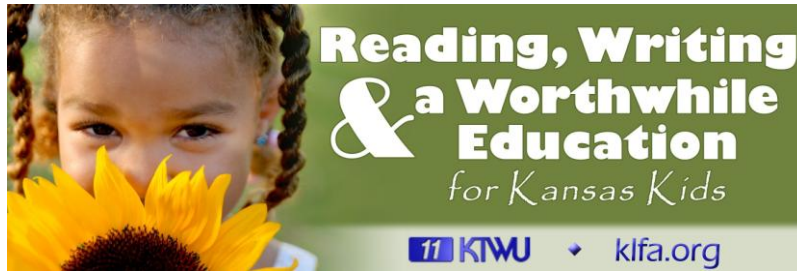
The Kansas Learning First Alliance (KLFA) is a coalition of organizations in Kansas representing school boards, administrators, teachers and teacher educators, parents and the Kansas State Department of Education. Kansas became the first state to have a partnership affiliated with the national Learning First Alliance when KLFA was founded in 1999. The organization's purpose is to unite the education community to improve our outstanding public education system, pre-K through higher education and empower each Kansan to succeed in the diverse, interdependent world of the 21st century.

About KTWU-TV

KTWU has been broadcasting local public television in eastern Kansas and portions of Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma since 1965 with the distinction of being the first public television station in Kansas. Viewers are served with Channel 11 offering three distinct and different broadcast options: KTWU in high definition; KTWU/MHz Worldview; and KTWU ENHANCE. KTWU is also broadcast on K30AL-LD translator channel in southeast Kansas. The station license is held by Washburn University with studios located on the Washburn campus in Topeka, Kansas. More information and programming details can be found at the station website at ktwu.org.

Kansas Learning First Alliance Educational Foundation Inc

Kansas Learning First Alliance Educational Foundation Inc is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organized to support, financially or otherwise, the concept of building an educational coalition dedicated to pursuing a common agenda to improve Kansas public education.



PARTICIPANT SURVEY FOR
Reading, Writing and a Worthwhile Education for Kansas Kids
(Please Give Your Completed Survey To Your Host—Thank You!)

Which group most closely describes you?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policymaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |

School District in which you reside: _____

Your city of residence: _____

Please circle the response below that most represents your opinion.

1. Do you believe the students in your community are receiving a worthwhile education?
 - a. Local schools are offering a worthwhile education to **all** students
 - b. Local schools are offering a worthwhile education to **most** students
 - c. Local schools need to do a better job offering a worthwhile education to all students
 - d. Some students simply do not or cannot learn
 - e. Not familiar with local schools

2. Do the students who graduated from your local schools have competitive jobs (or salaries)?
 - a. Yes, they have competitive jobs in our area
 - b. Yes, they have competitive jobs away from family and friends
 - c. Job salaries in our area are not adequate
 - d. Job salaries in our area are not competitive
 - e. Many graduates do not have jobs or recently lost jobs

3. In your opinion, what should be the top priority to make sure our graduates are prepared to enter the workforce?
 - a. Funding for a worthwhile education
 - b. Enactment of more laws for education
 - c. Redesign high schools
 - d. Business partnerships models
 - e. Involve parents more

4. What do you believe the next "conversation/discussion" about education in Kansas needs to address?
 - a. Funding initiatives
 - b. Competitive workforce skills
 - c. Business partnerships
 - d. Redesigning schools
 - e. Advocacy policies/practices

If you have any additional comments for KLFA, please e-mail to: kfa@knea.org