



KANSANS CAN

School Redesign Project

In 2017, Kansas State Department of Education launched the Kansans Can School Redesign Project.

Kansas school districts were invited to apply to be considered for the redesign project. Each district designated one elementary school and one secondary school to be redesigned.

Chester I. Lewis Academic Learning Center (Wichita Alternative High School) was selected for the Kansas Department of Education's Gemini II Redesign Project, which will begin during the 2019-2020 school year.

The redesign will focus around social and emotional growth, individualized plans of study and increasing the high school graduation rate.

Why is Kansas redesigning its educational system?

The current educational system has worked very well for some students, but not for all. This is evident when we look at Kansas' graduation rate. While 87.5 percent is a solid graduation rate, the other side of that indicates that we are not meeting the needs of nearly 13 percent of our students. Our children and families deserve better. Kansans believe changing the system for each student is the answer.

By offering students more opportunities and different ways to personalize their learning, they will become engaged learners and will grow in self-regulation, self-efficacy and independence. We are taking the best educational practices used throughout Kansas' history to create a model that will help each Kansas student succeed.

School Redesign is a Process Driven by Four Principles.

STUDENT SUCCESS SKILLS

There is an integrated approach to develop social-emotional growth.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are based on mutually beneficial relationships and collaboration

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Teachers support students to have choice over their time, place, pace and path.

REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS

Project-based learning, internships and civic engagement make learning relevant.



KEY ELEMENTS of Chester Lewis' Redesign

How Might We Teach and Support Emotional Growth?

- Utilizing Capturing Kids Hearts Training
 - o Increase relational capacity amongst all at Chester Lewis
 - o EXCEL Model of Engagement
 - o Launches incorporated into classroom practices
 - o Classroom greetings and affirmations
 - o Social Contracts
- Daily homeroom for students
 - o Utilize CKH strategies
 - o Goal setting and academic progress monitoring
 - o Restorative Practices
 - o Trauma Sensitive practices and curriculum
 - o Clubs/Organizations
- School Houses to Develop Relationships
 - o To provide connectedness and increase school pride
 - o Chet Challenge
 - o BAG Assemblies (Behavior, Attendance and Grades)
 - o College and Career Planning
 - o Think Options Thursdays



How Might We Develop Flexibility in our Classes While Maintaining Accountability?

- Student-led Individual Plan of Study contracts for project completion
- Project Based Learning Buck Institute Training summer of 2019
- Rubric development for grading purposes
- Flexible Scheduling – Homeroom class included in master schedule

Looking Ahead...

- Continued work towards more project based learning integrated with online curriculum
- Master Schedule to include homerooms for advocacy
- Increase graduation rate
- Increase daily attendance
- Increase business partnerships/internships for students

