

THE ROSE CAPACITIES

The Rose Capacities (sometimes referred to as “Rose Standards”) were cited in the Kansas Supreme Court’s March 2014 *Gannon v State of Kansas* school finance decision. The Court said these are the standards for determining the level of suitable funding for public schools in Kansas and will be used as the test when deciding if the state is meeting its constitutional requirement to fund public education.

The standards originated in a 1989 Kentucky case, but have been referenced in other Kansas court cases and Kansas school law prior to the *Gannon* decision. In May 2014 the Kansas Legislature passed - and the Governor signed - HB 2506. The bill revised a statute pertaining to schools (KSA 2013 Supp. 72-1127) by including the exact language of the Rose Capacities. The new law also says the Kansas State Board of Education must design subjects and areas of instruction to achieve these goals.

To begin to understand what this means for Kansas schools, KASB has grouped the seven standards into five categories.

Communication/Basic Skills

Rose Capacity 1: Sufficient oral and written communication skills to enable students to function in a complex and rapidly changing civilization;

Civic and Social Engagement

Rose Capacity 2: Sufficient knowledge of economic, social, and political systems to enable the students to make informed choices;

Rose Capacity 3: Sufficient understanding of governmental processes to enable the students to understand the issues that affect his or her community, state, and nation;

Physical and Mental Health

Rose Capacity 4: Sufficient self-knowledge and knowledge of his or her mental and physical wellness;

Arts and Cultural Appreciation

Rose Capacity 5: Sufficient grounding in the arts to enable each student to appreciate his or her cultural and historical heritage;

Postsecondary and Career Preparation

Rose Capacity 6: Sufficient training or preparation for advanced training in either academic or vocational fields so as to enable each child to choose and pursue life work intelligently; and

Rose Capacity 7: Sufficient levels of academic or vocational skills to enable public school students to compete favorably with their counterparts in surrounding states, in academics or in the job market.

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