



## Highlighted Project Kansas

### Kansans Can School Redesign

“Kansans Can” is the new vision for education calling for a more student-focused system for individual success and can be achieved with everyone working together. The Central Comprehensive Center (C3) at the University of Oklahoma Outreach is providing support and resources to the Kansas State Department of Education’s (KSDE) statewide initiative, [Kansans Can School Redesign](#), to help make this vision a reality. Kansas school districts were invited to apply for the redesign project in 2017. Seven school districts (named the Mercury 7 cohort) were chosen first and continue to serve as demonstration sites for others in Kansas to study, learn, and visit. Two additional cohorts joined the school redesign project since the initial launch. Gemini I has 21 districts and 42 schools participating and Gemini II has 19 districts and 50 schools participating. To be considered for the first three cohorts, districts designated one elementary and secondary school to participate in the Kansans Can School Redesign Project. All selected schools developed a redesign plan focusing on the five Kansas State Board of Education outcomes: locally measured social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study based on career interest, increased graduation rates, and increased percent of students pursuing postsecondary education. A new Apollo cohort will be selected in the Spring 2019.

The Kansans Can School Redesign Project is an integral part of the [Strategic Performance Management](#) (SPM) system. C3 and Building State Capacity and Productivity Center continue to work with KSDE staff members on SPM which connects their work to a more student-focused system. C3’s Kansas Technical Assistance Liaison currently provides facilitation to the School Redesign Ground Crew (an internal team to trouble shoot and resolve roadblocks) and Regional School Redesign meetings. C3 also provides KSDE leadership and redesign specialists with resources, tools, and best practices on innovative school design; productive stakeholder communication; positive school culture; climate for change topics; and effective use of technology for instruction. C3 will support the project management of Personalized Learning Academies, which will be provided by the Center on Innovations in Learning (CIL), to KSDE consultants delivering learning opportunities to redesign schools. C3 continues to support KSDE’s efforts in planning, reflecting, and guiding the implementation and sustainability of the Kansans Can School Redesign project.

*A KSDE staff member reported increased networking opportunities within KSDE and with different organizations across the U.S., including CIL, as well as other state education agencies from Oklahoma and Arkansas due to C3’s technical assistance stating, “We are now working across departments, probably more so than ever before.” Another KSDE staff member also said, “C3 has worked with KSDE and helped improve climate, culture, and communication throughout the agency. . . C3 is really good about putting us in touch with opportunities to network with other states and attend conferences.”*

