

Spring Newsletter



Conversation with New SPS Superintendent Heath Hogan



Incoming Superintendent Heath Hogan isn't just going to run Salina Public Schools, he's ready to build on the district's successes and create new opportunities for students. With a vision that includes working alongside educators, families and community members, Hogan is ready to help shape the future of education in Salina.

Q: What drew you to a career in public education, and what continues to inspire you every day?

A: Growing up, I had teachers and mentors who saw potential in me before I saw it in myself. When I was a little older I recognized the power of education in changing and reshaping lives. I decided that I wanted to be a part of that, as leader and mentor for others. Every day, I'm inspired by the resilience and curiosity of students, the dedication of educators and the collective goal of shaping a brighter future.

Q: What drew you to this role in Salina?

A: Salina is a dynamic and growing community with a strong commitment to education. I was drawn to the district's vision, the passion of the educators here and the chance to make a broader impact. I believe my experience and leadership style align well with the district's goals, and I'm excited to be part of this next chapter.

Q: What is your vision for guiding USD 305 towards excellence?

A: Excellence isn't about perfection – it's about progress. I believe in leading with integrity, collaboration and a relentless commitment to student success. One of my mentors used to say, "We are going to be tough on issues and soft on people." I have made an effort to lead with this philosophy when making decisions. I strive to treat people with respect, grace and empathy.

Q: How will you ensure the needs of students, teachers and the greater community are met?

A: First, I plan to spend a lot of time listening – meeting with students, teachers, parents and community members to understand their priorities and concerns. Second, I will work to ensure that teachers have the resources and professional development they need to be successful. Finally, I believe in fostering strong community partnerships. Schools don't operate in isolation, and by working closely with local businesses, organizations and families, we can continue to provide and expand opportunities for our students.

Q: With today's challenges in education, what are your thoughts about preparing students for success in life, not just academics?

A: Education has to be about equipping students with the skills and resilience they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. That means integrating social-emotional learning, ensuring students have access to mental health resources and teaching critical thinking, adaptability and problem-solving skills. We also need to prepare students for a range of post-graduation paths, whether that's college, career or the trades. It's our job to provide them with a strong foundation and the confidence to navigate their

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futures. I believe that the Kansans Can goals along with the USD 305 board goals set a clear vision to this foundation.

Q: What excites you most about this new role in Salina?

A: The people! Salina has a reputation for being a community that values education and innovation. I'm excited to work alongside educators, families and community members to build on the district's successes and create new opportunities for students. The chance to help shape the future of education in this community is both an honor and a challenge I eagerly embrace.

Q: What is a message you would like to give to students, families and staff of Salina Public Schools?

A: I want to say thank you. Thank you for your commitment to education, for your hard work and for your belief in what we can accomplish together. My promise to you is that I will always put students first, lead with transparency and work tirelessly to ensure every student in Salina has the opportunity to succeed. I am honored to have been selected for this position and look forward to working together to build something truly special.

