

# PROFILE INFORMATION

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2016-17



## Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools



School Finance  
Kansas State Department of Education  
Landon State Office Building  
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 356  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212

[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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**2016-17 Budget General Information**  
**USD #: 500**

**Introduction**

The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) is a nationally recognized urban school district that serves approximately 22,000 students. With a Head Start program, three preschools, 30 elementary schools, 8 middle schools, and 5 high schools, the district serves a wonderfully diverse mixture of students. A remarkable 63 different languages are spoken in the homes of our students. To serve those students, the district employs approximately 3,650 staff, including more than 1600 teachers.

In large measure due to actions by the Kansas Legislature, this document presents an incomplete, and thus misleading picture of the KCKPS budget. A quick glance at the budget would lead the reader to believe that the district has significantly more money to spend on educating students than in previous years. In fact, since 2008, the state has failed to send to the district more than \$120 million that the district should have received to serve its students. The true picture is that Senate Bill 7 – known as the “Block Grant” bill – provides less money for educating students to KCKPS, and to every school district in the state.

**Board Members**

- Dr. Evelyn Hill, President
- Ms. Brenda C. Jones, Vice-President
- Rev. Rick Behrens
- Ms. Irene Caudillo
- Mr. Richard Kaminski
- Mrs. Gloria Willis
- Dr. Valdenia Winn

**Key Staff**

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Superintendent:  | Dr. Cynthia Lane                 |
| Assistant Superintendents:                             | Marcy Clay, Elementary           |
|  | Dr. Jayson Strickland, Secondary |
| Chief of Operations:                                   | Dr. Kelli Mather                 |
| Chief of Communications and<br>Governmental Relations: | David A. Smith                   |
| Chief of Police:                                       | Chief Henry Horn                 |
| Director of Finance:                                   | Kristen Woodbury                 |
| Director of Educational Research<br>and Assessment:    | David Rand                       |
| Director of Curriculum:                                | Alan King                        |
| Director of Student Services:                          | Lisa Garcia                      |
| Director of Special Education:                         | Dr. Michelle Colvin              |
| Clerk of the Board:                                    | Susan Westfahl                   |

## **Vision**

*Striving to become one of the Top 10 school districts in the nation, by creating a generation of innovative thinkers who will change the world.*

## **Goal**

*Each student will exit high school prepared for college and careers in a global society, and at every level, performance is on-track and on-time for success.*

## **The District's Accomplishments and Challenges**

### **Accomplishments:**

- The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools has achieved a dramatic and unparalleled rise in student achievement.
  - Reading achievement has risen from 11 percent of students meeting proficiency in 1996 to 67 percent of students meeting the standard in 2011.
  - Math achievement has risen from 3 percent of students meeting proficiency in 1996 to 69 percent meeting the standard in 2011.
- Despite not having sufficient resources, the district has always worked tirelessly to do what is right for its students.
  - Students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds frequently begin school behind their more-advantaged counterparts from wealthier communities, particularly in the area of language development. Even so, they are expected to reach the same high standards. In order to positively impact these students, the district implemented a preschool program in 1997, which has since grown more than 275 percent. Currently, more than 1700 students are being served. Decades of research show that children who attend high-quality pre-K programs are academically stronger in reading and math. They also have more social skills and are better prepared for school.
  - To ensure that students are "school ready" by the time they enter first grade, KCKPS implemented all-day kindergarten at all elementary school sites in 2007.
  - In 2007, KCKPS became the first district in the Kansas City metropolitan area to lease a laptop computer for every high school student, and one of the first urban districts in the nation. The Laptops for Learning Program is designed to help students to transition from being "consumers of learning" to being "producers of knowledge," ready to compete with students from across the world in the 21st century. Currently, students in grades 4-12 have access to their own laptops (only high school students take them home), and the ratio of students to iPads in grades K-3 is 2:1.

- Sumner Academy of Arts and Science was one of only four high schools across the nation recognized by ACT for their success in college and career transition. ALL of Sumner’s seniors are admitted to a post-secondary institution, and each student participates in a minimum of two college visits by the time they graduate. All students take the ACT WorkKeys assessments, designed to measure their job-readiness skills for success.
- Leadership begins at the top. KCKPS has benefited from strong and consistent leadership from its Board of Education, which has allowed it to maintain consistency in its improvement efforts. The KCKPS Board of Education is a recipient of the Magna Award, a national recognition program that honors school board best practices and innovative programs that advance student learning.
- In order to ensure that all students are prepared to be successful on the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, the district has aligned its curriculum, preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade, with Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards. The district has also worked to implement the curriculum system-wide, so that each student, regardless of what building they are in, has access to a guaranteed curriculum experience.
- In order to make the goal of graduating college and career ready a reality for our students, a number of different efforts are taking place:
  - The district administers the ACT to all high school juniors, during the school day. Rather than restrict the ACT to “college-track” students, the district believes that all students should be prepared for college, and has administered the ACT to all.
  - Through partnerships with Donnelly College, the Kansas City, Kansas Community College (KCKCC) and the Partnership for Regional Education Preparation – Kansas City (PREP-KC), the district is working hard to make sure that students have access to the experiences they need to graduate both college and career ready. These efforts include:
    - Giving students access to college classes, both at their home schools, and on the Donnelly and KCKCC campuses. Last year, 36% of students graduated with college credit.
    - Working with PREP-KC to give students access to internships, job-shadowing experiences, and other connections to industry-specific work and learning experiences. Last year, 60% of students graduated with an industry certification.
  - For the graduating class of 2021, the district has instituted Diploma+, which will require that students graduating from high school meet the requirements for a high school diploma, along with at least one of the following:
    - Completion of at least one full year of college (18 – 30 credit hours)
    - Completion of an industry-recognized certificate or credential

- At least a 21 on the ACT or 1060 on the SAT
  - Acceptance into the Military (ASVAB)
  - Completion of a qualified internship or industry-approved project
  - Approved plan for post-secondary transition
  - Completion of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) or International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP)
- The district has a Family Advocacy system in place at every school building. Through this system, students are paired with a competent, caring adult at their school who stays with them for a period of years, getting to know them and their family and guiding them emotionally, socially and academically.
  - An energy savings and education program implemented in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools in 2009, has resulted in a savings of more than \$3 million to date. In recognition of this achievement, the KCK Board of Education was presented with an Energy Excellence Award from Energy Education.
  - Twenty-six buildings in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools have earned ENERGY STAR certification from the federal government's Environmental Protection Agency. This recognition is given to the most energy efficient buildings in the country.
  - Each winter, more than 1400 students spend an entire Saturday competing in Math Relays. In Math Relays, students compete in four major strands: algebra, geometry, number concepts, and statistics and probability. A Sigma category also exists for students who want to compete in all strands. Students also compete in an annual "Battle of the Books" in which students demonstrate their knowledge about books they have read, through a series of competitions.
  - Three KCKPS high schools offer nationally certified Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs. PLTW is a national program designed to create a pipeline of students prepared to be leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
  - Washington High School's Air Force Junior ROTC program has been recognized with the "Outstanding Organization Award" from the Department of the Air Force.
  - In 2012, Kansas City, Kansas was named one of America's Promise Alliance's 100 Best Communities for Young People. This national award was given to KCK to recognize its outstanding and innovative work in addressing the dropout crisis, and for its programs and services that make it an outstanding place for youth to live, learn and grow.

- Despite a significant shortfall in funding from the state, the district has managed to continue to move forward in its quest to provide students and staff with quality, modern facilities. Through diligent stewardship of resources, prioritization of needs, and use of available financing options (including Qualified School Construction Bonds, which allowed us to finance several building projects at essentially no interest cost) the district has managed to:
  - Build additions to three elementary schools and one high school, and complete construction on four brand new elementary schools (replacing buildings that were functionally obsolete) as well as a new library for the southern part of the community. In total, 14 facilities have been remodeled or replaced since 2008, without a tax increase.
  - Replace the central office, moving from a condemned building to a brand new, far more functional facility, while paying less than it cost to rent the old facility.
- Staff in KCKPS demonstrate their commitment to the Kansas City, Kansas community by being one of the top 5 employers in giving to United Way, giving almost \$100,000 last year. This is the largest amount given by any school district in the metro Kansas City area.
- Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools is one of four lead plaintiffs in the *Gannon v. State of Kansas* school funding lawsuit that is currently before the Kansas Supreme Court.

### **Challenges:**

- Coping with the tremendous burden of years of reduced state funding, while standards and expectations continue to increase. This burden has increased as a result of Block Grant funding, has frozen funding at inadequate levels, does not account for growth in student population or student needs, and disconnects education funding from what it actually costs to provide a quality education to all students.
- On-going efforts to shift the burden for equitable and adequate school funding away from the legislature, as mandated in the state constitution, and place it on local districts, exacerbating the divide between wealthy communities and the rest of the state, and making the quality of a child's education dependent on their zip code.
  - Kansas City, Kansas has one of the lowest assessed-valuation rates in the metropolitan area.
  - Kansas City, Kansas residents bear a disproportionate tax burden, relative to their neighbors in surrounding communities.
- The difficulty in maintaining a high-quality staff, in the face of recruitment from nearby districts, and most recently, other states with higher salary scales, and a more positive education climate.

- The need to increase the graduation rate, and make sure that more students graduate in four years.
- The increasing concentration of poverty within the community, which puts an even higher expectation on the district to make sure that all students have what they need to be successful.
- The average age of buildings in KCKPS, which is more than 56 years old, which creates enormous challenges, both with regular maintenance, and with updating facilities to meet the needs of the 21st Century.



## **Supplemental Information for the Following Tables**

1. Summary of Total Expenditures by Function (All Funds)
2. Summary of General Fund Expenditures by Function
3. Summary of Supplemental General Fund Expenditures by Function
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17. Capital Improvements (4000)
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19. Miscellaneous Information – Transfers (5200)
20. Miscellaneous Information Unencumbered Cash Balance by Fund
21. Reserve Funds Unencumbered Cash Balance
22. Other Information – Enrollment Information
23. Miscellaneous Information Mill Rates by Fund
24. Other Information – Assessed Valuation and Bonded Indebtedness

**Note: The FTE (full time equivalency) used in this report to calculate the “Amount Per Pupil” is defined as follows: Enrollment (FTE) includes the current year enrollment on September 20, February 20, 4 yr old at-risk, and virtual. It does not include non-funded preschool or full-day kindergarten not on an IEP.**

## **KSDE Website Information Available**

### **K-12 Statistics (Building, District or State Totals) website below:**

<http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx>

- Attendance / Enrollment Reports
- Staff Reports
- Graduates / Dropouts Reports
- Crime / Violence Reports

### **School Finance Reports and Publications website below:**

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/School-Finance/Reports-and-Publications>

- Assessed Valuation
- Cash Balances
- Headcount Enrollment
- Mill Levies
- Personnel (Certified/Non-Certified)
- Salary Reports

### **Kansas Building Report Card website below:**

<http://ksreportcard.ksde.org/>

- Attendance Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Dropout Rate
- School Violence
- Assessments
  - Reading
  - Mathematics
  - Writing
- Graduates Passing Adv. Science Courses
- Graduates Passing Adv. Math Courses