

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

OUR VISION

Every student develops a deep understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue higher education, obtain family-supporting employment, contribute to the civic well-being of the community and have the opportunity for a rewarding and fulfilling life.

OUR MISSION

The mission of KCPS is to achieve, in a way that is unencumbered by excuses, our Vision for education by ensuring that all children benefit from teaching and learning.

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT INCREASES FUNDING FOR THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Everyone deserves the chance to grow up and to grow up sheltered and fed and clothed. They deserve to do it in a world free from violence. Unfortunately, with gun-related deaths continually on the rise in Kansas City and many other cities, an affordable housing crisis across the nation, and a cycle of poverty that continues to impart generational traumas, many of our students are not getting access to the lives they deserve.

Our teachers see this every day - our children do not show up as blank slates. They carry the traumas inflicted on them by their realities when they show up in our schools. It's essential that our students get access to mental health and housing as they seek out ways to thrive both in and outside of the classroom.

- Advocate for increased funding for treatment, facilities and preventative mental health services, particularly in underserved communities.
- Advocate for additional funding for social and emotional services, specifically targeted at K-12 public schools in underserved communities.



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kcpublicschools.org

SUPPORT LEGISLATION AND FUNDING DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR TEACHER COMPENSATION THAT IS COMPETITIVE, LIVABLE AND DIFFERENTIATED

School districts succeed because of the work that our educators do in and outside of their classrooms every day. It's a rewarding job, but it's a difficult one, too. It's getting harder and harder to attract a robust, talented and diverse teacher population, especially in a world where students are showing up with more trauma and fewer community resources. Competitive wages are essential when it comes to attracting a teacher population that is able to address students' intellectual, emotional and social needs.

- Advocate for more competitive wages for all teachers in Missouri and for funding increases to be included in the state budget for 2020-2021.
- Advocate for a differentiated pay schedule for teachers who fill state-recognized hard-to-fill subject areas.
- Advocate for a differentiated pay schedule for teachers who are hired into schools that the state has classified as "Comprehensive" (bottom 5 percent of all schools in the state as determined by assessment, attendance and graduation rates) or "Targeted" (bottom 5 percent of schools in the state based on student sub-group performance.)

EQUITABLE FUNDING RESOURCES AND PROCESSES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN CHOICE COMMUNITIES

All children, regardless of what type of school they attend, should have the same access to publicly-funded educational resources. The equitable sharing and distribution of taxpayer dollars remain a key element in making sure all students are getting the necessary learning tools to succeed. Kansas City Public Schools remains committed to a funding structure that guarantees all schools are properly funded.

- Share in appropriate public-funded resources based on weighted average daily attendance counts (WADA) for students residing in the boundaries of the public school Local Education Agency (LEA).
- Require revenue shares based on actual revenues collected with the distribution of funds after receipt of revenues

SUPPORT LEGISLATION AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF STATUTES TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREATMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY

While the education system in Kansas City, and in all regions with choice, is complex, all public schools have a responsibility to the communities they serve to be open. All schools receiving public dollars should have equitable treatment when it comes to the rules surrounding economic and governmental transparency.

- Advocate for DESE to assign accreditation ratings to all school buildings, including charters, utilizing the same systems of measures and accountabilities that are used for traditional schools.
- Advocate for equity between traditional schools and charter schools by providing flexibility in traditional schools' salary schedules and by permitting all public schools to have no more than 5 percent of its full-time instructional staff be not certified.
- Advocate for the annual reporting of financial information via public school district and charter school websites. These websites should provide a comprehensive picture of revenues and expenses, including contributions, contracts, personnel salary schedules, and all debt services connected to the operation of the school.
- Advocate for all school board meetings to open to the public and publicized in advance. The public should also have online public access to minutes.

KCPS does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other factor prohibited by law. To learn more, visit [kcpublicschools.org/notice](https://www.kcpublicschools.org/notice)