

Board Principles for Education Collaboration

The Board of the Kansas City Public Schools believes the school district should play a defining role in building a more coordinated and organized public education system that meets the needs of all students. Toward that end, the KCPS Board supports culturally responsive, equitable and financially sustainable partnership opportunities that seek to achieve the mission and vision of the KCPS system. This may include collaboration or coordination between KCPS and community groups or school operators.

Currently the Kansas City public education system has become increasingly fragmented, posing challenges for families to understand and navigate. To date there are 23 separate public school systems within the KCPS geographic area -- operating under different governance rules and educational models. This landscape does not provide families a clear path through the K-12 system. Enrollment and population data show that many families have continued to leave the KCPS area for surrounding school districts even as the number of school options has grown.

Towards defining an organized and equitable education system, the KCPS School Board has identified a set of principles that describe our core values and priorities for collaboration, and provide a framework for building access, opportunity and accountability into public education in Kansas City. Adopted by the KCPS Board of Directors, these principles will help guide the district's discussions with potential partners:

- The proposal shall enhance education equity and opportunity for students within KCPS boundaries.
- The proposal shall contribute to a more coordinated system that provides for the educational needs of all children within KCPS boundaries. Moreover, the proposal shall not compromise financial sustainability of the overall system nor contribute to inefficiency or redundancy.
- The proposal shall address an unmet need and contribute to academic performance of the overall system.
- The proposing entity shall commit to working with KCPS collaboratively as an educational thought partner.
- The proposing entity shall demonstrate educational expertise and operational capacity to manage a high-performing program.
- The proposal shall ensure a process for data-sharing, and academic and financial accountability that aligns with Missouri accountability standards for school districts.
- The proposing entity shall commit to build a program that values and promotes inclusion to ensure diversity among students and staff.
- The proposal shall ensure effective student, family, educator and community involvement in the development and operation of the school.