



Kansas Education Facts

January 2023



Students

Kansas public schools enroll approximately 90% of the school-aged population of the state. About 5% of other children attend accredited private schools. The rest attend non-accredited private and home schools, which do not have to report enrollment.

Kansas public school districts enrolled over 484,000 students this year by headcount. In 2020, enrollment hit a record high of 492,000, but dropped due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past two years, Kansas regained half of the enrollment numbers lost.

Over the past 25 years, the number of racial and ethnic minority students in Kansas has increased from less than 15% to nearly 40% in public schools and from less than 12 to 30% in private schools.

Since 2000, public school students eligible for free and reduced-price meals increased from less than one-third to nearly one-half; in private schools, from one-tenth to one-fifth.

Since 1994, public school students with disabilities doubled, from less than 7% to over 16%; in private schools, from 2% to 5%. Public schools provide special education services to private school students as well.

Teachers & Staff

Kansas public schools employ over 72,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. This total does not include part-time positions. This number accounts for about 5% of total employment in Kansas, excluding farming-related careers.

The total 72,000 FTE positions in Kansas break down as follows.

Approximately 80%:

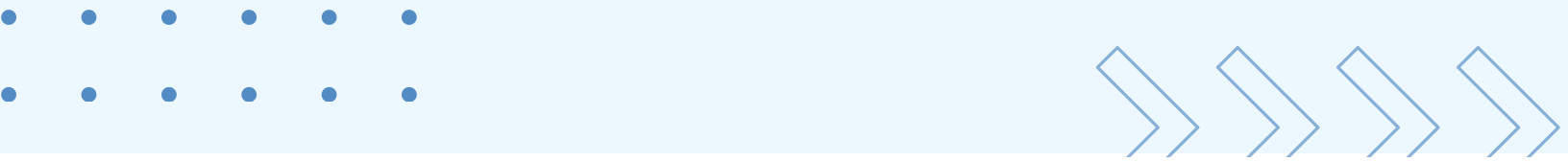
- 35,000 teachers
- 10,000 special education paraprofessionals and classroom aides
- 8,000 guidance, counseling, health, libraries, technology and other student and teaching support staff
- 4,000 school principals and building office staff

Approximately 20%:

- 5,400 operations and maintenance staff
- 2,100 transportations staff
- 3,000 food service workers
- 2,000 district administration, business support and all other jobs

Only 11 states have a lower student-to-teacher ratio than Kansas (13-6), which is below both the national average (15-9) and the regional average (14-7) of neighboring states.

Kansas has more teachers, paraprofessionals, teacher aides and other support staff per student than the U.S. average but falls slightly lower than average for all other staff positions.



Education Outcomes

In 2021, Kansas reached its highest educational attainment for persons aged 24 or older: almost 92% completed high school and nearly 35% achieved a four-year degree or more. In 1940, less than one-third had finished high school and less than 5% had completed a four-year degree.

In 2021, more 18 to 24-year-olds had completed a four-year college degree than ever (12.4%), but the percentage with any college, including one and two-year degrees or no credentials met, fell from 59.2 to 56.3%.

Kansas public schools' four-year high school graduation rate reached an all-time high of 88.2% in 2020, falling slightly to 88.1 in 2021 following the COVID-19 pandemic. Special education, low-income and English Language Learners groups also reached new highs in 2020 before the impact of COVID.

The five-year average postsecondary effective rate for Kansas students is defined as the percentage of each senior class that graduated high school and either completed or remained enrolled in a college or technical program after two years. This number reached a high of 52% for 2020 but is predicted to fall due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Postsecondary degrees, including technical certificates, awarded by Kansas colleges to students under 24 rose from 20,000 to 28,000 in 2019, dropping back to 27,000 in 2021 after the pandemic. For students 19 and under, credentials earned rose from under 2,500 to over 6,000 before dropping to 5,700 in 2021.

Each step up in educational attainment, from completing high school to an advanced degree, increases average income and employment opportunities and reduces poverty rates.

School Funding

Kansas schools expect to spend over \$8 billion this year. When adjusted for inflation, that would be slightly higher than in 2009 but includes over \$400 million in temporary federal COVID-19 funding that expires in two years.

Regular operating budgets for Kansas school districts are estimated to be about \$5.1 billion this year – far below 2009 when adjusted for inflation.

Kansas schools spend 54% of funding on direct instruction; 21% on student and teacher support, food service and transportation; 21% on school construction, bond payments, and operations and maintenance; and less than 4% on general administration.

Kansas public schools spend approximately 10% below the U.S. average per student and about the same as the regional average of neighboring and Plains states.

Less than half of increased school funding since 2010 has gone to general operating budgets for regular teachers and programs. More has come from higher federal aid such as temporary COVID-19 aid and expanded student meal aid, higher KPERs payment dues to past underfunding (which schools cannot spend), and payments on school construction bonds approved by local voters.

Since 2010, special education students have increased by 25%, total special education expenditures by 44%, and the inflation rate by 34%, while state special education aid has increased by just 25%.