



COMMUNITY REPORT 2023

PROUD TO BE KSD



Dr. Traci Pierce
Superintendent

When people ask me, “What are you most proud of in Kennewick School District?” the answer is easy: The People.

As a school district, we are a group of people working together to serve people: students, families and community members. People from all walks of life—with diverse strengths, backgrounds and perspectives—entrust us each day with the most important people in their lives: their children. Our schools exist to nurture children and to help all students to learn, grow and thrive.

Our KSD vision is that all students are “known well, safe and destined to reach their highest potential.” Helping students to reach their highest potential requires educators who love kids, who are passionate about education and who are dedicated to the profession. I am proud of the excellent staff we have here in KSD.

I am also proud to be part of a supportive community of people here in Kennewick. My family members have lived in the Tri-Cities for more than 50 years, and over the past 30 years, I have had the privilege of seeing this community grow and prosper. Strong school districts and strong communities go hand-in-hand, and together we can continue to grow the next generation of people who can use their time and talent to benefit the entire community.

Each year, we publish an annual report to the community highlighting our district’s efforts to achieve our strategic goals. We share strengths, successes and key progress indicators. Our focus is on continuous improvement and unwavering dedication to our mission and vision for all students.

We are grateful for the ongoing collaboration and support we receive from the community, and we look forward to the new year ahead!

Check out KSD’s Strategic Plan—ksd.org/strategicplan

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Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Vic Roberts

Executive Director of Business Operations

Ron Cone

Executive Director of Information Technology

Robyn Chastain

Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

STUDENT ENROLLMENT (HEADCOUNT) AS OF OCTOBER 1



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS (2022-23)



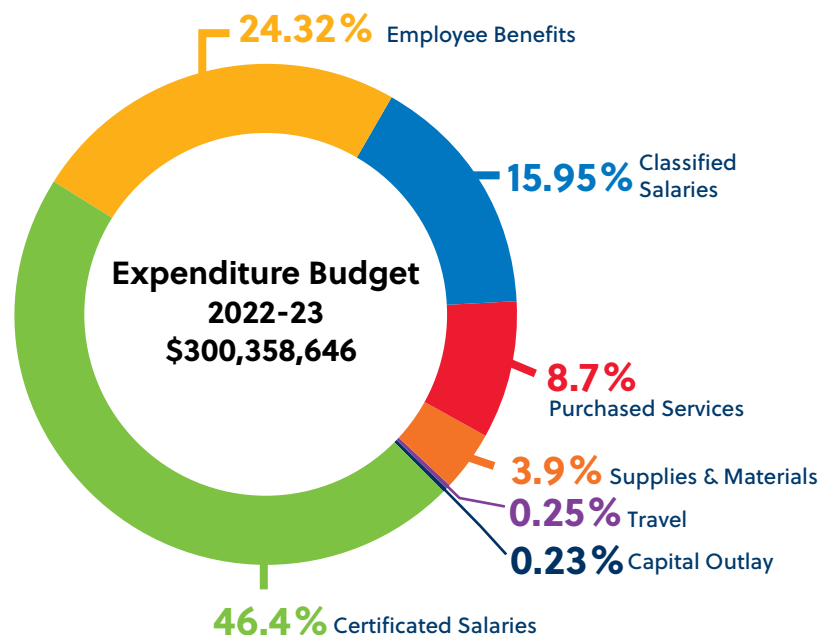
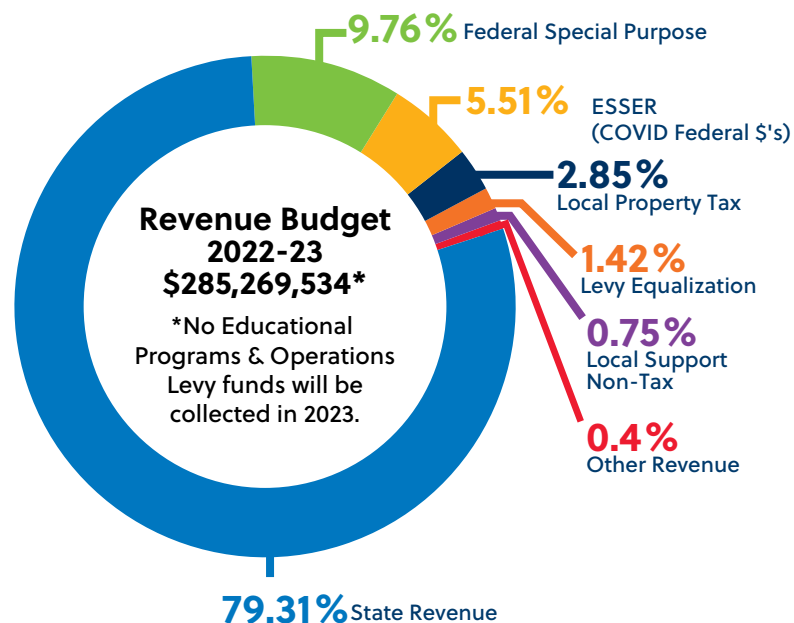
SCHOOLS & LEARNING PROGRAMS



STAFF (2022-23)



TEACHERS (2022-23)



STRATEGIC GOALS | STUDENTS

Goal: All Students are Safe, Known and Valued



Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Implement districtwide “Focus on Belonging” professional development plan.
- Hold monthly meetings of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council to seek student voice.
- Update building safety goals based on annual student survey results.
- Implement annual Attendance Awareness campaign.
- Establish Community Engagement Board and student-centered attendance practices.
- Perform nine safety drills per school.
- Partner with Kennewick Police Department to provide safety/active shooter training for all school and district office staffs.

Student Perspectives Contribute To Positive School Changes

When high school students who are part of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council (SSAC) gather monthly, each student brings with them their own unique perspectives and questions, but they all have one thing in common—they all have a voice.

Students lead the discussion as the superintendent listens to ideas they have for making their school experience better. Whether it’s making schools safer or improving school meals, each student has a chance to have their voice heard and work together in finding solutions. Through the SSAC, the students of Kennewick School District have a platform to share their ideas and make meaningful change.

Progress To Date*

- ▶ **86%** of students feel safe, included and welcomed at school.
- ▶ **82.5%** of students regularly attend school (fewer than two absences per month).
- ▶ The student discipline rate is **1%**.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | STUDENTS

Goal: All Students are Engaged Learners



Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Implement districtwide high-dosage tutoring strategy.
- Implement new 6-12 English Language Arts curriculum.
- Adopt new World Language curriculum.
- Adopt 4-12 comprehensive health/sex education curriculum.
- Convene mathematics committee to evaluate math pathways.
- Provide training and support for multi-tiered systems of academic support and positive academic intervention systems.
- Provide inclusionary practices professional development and implement specific strategies to increase student inclusion rates.
- Continue to expand summer school offerings.
- Implement new data system to support student data analysis and aide schools in identifying students in need of additional supports.

Online Tutoring Closes Learning Gaps

Hundreds of Kennewick students in grades K-12 are receiving help with their studies this school year thanks to online tutoring sessions made available through Varsity Tutors with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding.

Varsity Tutors has a wide range of tutors who are experts in a variety of subjects, so parents can find the right tutor for their child.

A Kennewick parent remarked, "My daughter's tutor is like having a teacher in our home once a week, and her reading fluency is improving quickly. Varsity Tutors is accommodating of our busy schedule while matching my child with a tutor who is aware of her special needs."

Learn more at ksd.org/tutor

Progress To Date*

- ▶ **86%** of students report having access to diverse course offerings, activities and athletics.
- ▶ **55%** of students are meeting Kennewick School District's Student Growth and Proficiency Targets.

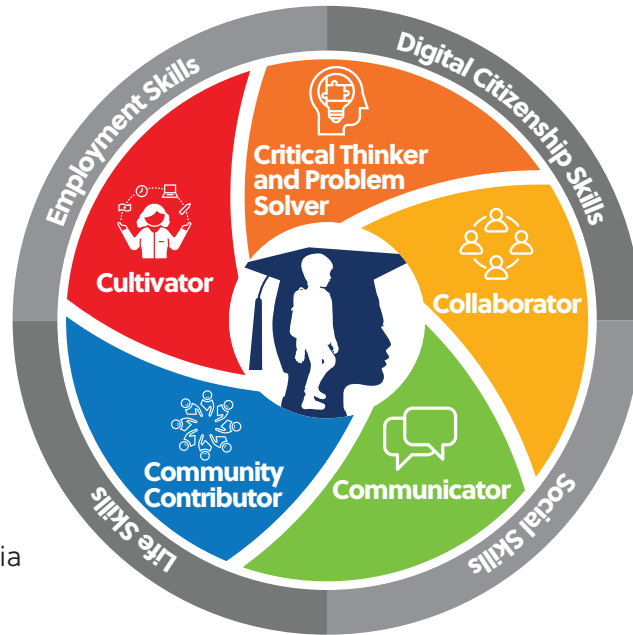
*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | STUDENTS

Goal: All Students Are Ready For Their Future

Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Complete development of Kennewick School District's Learner Profile, defining key digital citizenship, social, life, and employment skills.
- Continue to implement 1:1 Chromebooks for grades K-12.
- Begin Transitional Kindergarten program.
- Implement new online K-8 program at Mid-Columbia Partnership and Endeavor High School.



New Learner Profile Defines Goals for Graduates

At the heart of Kennewick School District's new learner profile is the idea that all students should be prepared to pursue postsecondary education, develop career pathways and become active citizens and leaders.

The learner profile was developed with input from a variety of stakeholders, including families, educators, community members and higher education and business leaders. It outlines the skills students need to develop and attributes that students should possess upon graduation. It emphasizes the value of developing the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century, including problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Learn more at ksd.org/strategicplan

Progress To Date*

- ▶ 81% of students, families and staff report that students have opportunities to learn the digital citizenship, social, life and employment skills within the Kennewick School District Learner Profile.
- ▶ 80% of students and parents interested in dual language have access to the program.
- ▶ 82% of students graduated in five years.
- ▶ 70.6% of high school students completed at least one dual credit, college-level course.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | FAMILIES

Goal: All Families Are Key Partners



Parent involvement soars with Action Teams for Partnerships

Engaging parents in their children's education is a critical step in ensuring student success.

Across the school district, Action Team for Partnerships (ATPs) are building strong partnerships between parents and their schools. There are currently teams in 25 schools focused on creating meaningful opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education that will lead to improved student outcomes.

The teams, made up of staff, parents and other community stakeholders, create ways that make it easier for parents to get involved. This includes engaging families through academic nights, open houses, parent workshops and other activities.

Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Continue to implement and expand Action Team Partnerships (ATP) and/or Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO).
- Develop "Get to Know KSD" video series focused on family engagement, informed by annual district family survey.

Progress To Date*

- ▶ **88%** of families report feeling respected and welcomed in their children's schools.
- ▶ **82%** of families report having opportunities to engage with schools to help their children succeed.
- ▶ **79%** of families report having opportunities to learn about and provide input on district and school programs.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | STAFF

Goal: All Staff Members are Safe, Respected and Valued Professionals



Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Ensure all staff complete required annual safe schools training.
- Hold annual flu clinics for staff and the community.
- Continue to implement the Recruiting Washington Teachers' program, designed to recruit diverse high school students into the education profession.
- Establish district Staff Wellness committee.
- Implement new staff years of service recognition program and school recognition program.
- Continue to implement strategies for recruiting, hiring and supporting diverse educators in alignment with the district's Affirmative Action Plan.
- Continue to implement PAR mentoring program to support first- and second-year teachers.

Teaching Bridge: Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers Today

Kennewick School district launched Teaching Bridge, a "grow-your-own" educator program which supports students interested in pursuing a teaching career. The program is a collaboration between the school district, WSU Tri-Cities, ESD 123 and several community-based organizations.

Participants in the program receive assistance when applying and getting financial aid for college, early admission to WSU Tri-Cities, and work experience as substitute paraeducators.

According to Abby Mattson, assistant director of Career & Technical Education, "With the program, we're not only creating a career pathway, we're growing future employees."

Progress To Date*

- ▶ The overall district staff retention rate is **92.5%** over a five-year average.
- ▶ The overall district staff diversity is increasing by **3.1%** annually.
- ▶ **82%** of staff indicate they work in safe and positive environments, collaborate with colleagues and feel valued.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | COMMUNITY

Goal: All Community Members are Important Collaborators



Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Continue to support and expand partnerships with YMCA of the Greater Tri-Cities, The Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, Communities In Schools of Benton-Franklin, Junior Achievement of Southeastern Washington, United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties, WSU GEAR UP!, Kennewick Police Department, Family Learning Center, and the City of Kennewick.
- Hold quarterly District Equity Team meetings and provide opportunities for members to join district committees.
- Increase volunteerism throughout the district.

Volunteering

Volunteers play a key role in our district, from helping out in the classroom to serving on district committees.

Current volunteer opportunities in our district include:

- Classroom, field trips and school events
- Team Read (elementary reading program through The Children's Reading Foundation of the Mid-Columbia)
- United Way Middle School Lunchtime Mentoring Program
- District committees
- ATP (Action Team for Partnerships)
- PTO
- Athletic boosters
- Music/band boosters
- Extra-curricular activities

Learn more at ksd.org/volunteer

Progress To Date*

- More than **2,335** community members volunteer in our schools/district.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.

STRATEGIC GOALS | DISTRICT

Goal: The Kennewick School District is innovative, proactive and accountable



Ridge View Elementary Caps Off 2019 Bond Projects

The new Ridge View Elementary School at 7001 W. 13th Ave. will be a 30-classroom building that replaces the former 20-classroom building. Funded by the 2019 bond and the state School Construction Assistance Program, the estimated cost of the project is \$31 million. The new school will be completed in December 2023.

The new Ridge View Elementary School will be a state-of-the-art facility, enhancing the educational opportunities for the students and providing a modern, safe learning environment.

This is the final construction project included in the capital projects bond voters passed in 2019.

Thank you voters for your continued support of Kennewick schools!

Focus Areas for 2021-22

- Begin Ridge View Elementary construction in July 2022.
- Complete request for proposals (RFP) process for Nutrition Services.
- Implement new technology inventory management system.
- Implement e-collect system to manage sports forms, user fees and other forms.
- Maintain a long-term budget strategy to align revenue and expenditures.

Progress To Date*

- ▶ The unassigned, minimum fund balance is **3.6%** of the total district budget.

*Based on the 2021-22 school year.