Notable School Characteristics

- Brookwood Elementary is fortunate to have a strong PTA and community involvement with a focus on student achievement.
- Our assessment scores are consistently above district and state levels.
- The staff of Brookwood work together to ensure that all students are successful both academically and socially using Professional Learning Communities.
- Brookwood was recently rebuilt in 2018 and features collaboration areas, flexible seating, and was designed to enhance learning.
- Brookwood is also home to the gifted program for all of the South area in Shawnee Mission.

KSDE Building Report Card
Brookwood Elementary Building Report Card

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Needs Analysis

What barriers must be overcome for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on assessments?

Some of the key barriers that must be overcome at Brookwood include lack of special education funding, lack of support staff able to assist with tiered instruction, students with severe special needs, and students who are facing traumatic situations in their lives. We have also been impacted by the lack of substitutes. When substitutes aren’t available it places a strain on the staff and takes away from interventions that should be taking place. It requires us to use other instructional staff that typically work with other students.

What budget actions should be taken to address and remove those barriers?

Given an appropriate level of funding for both general education and special education, there are a number of budget actions we could take to remove some barriers. Some of them include increased salary to recruit and retain highly qualified certified and classified staff, increased funding and time for PLCs to meet, increase paraeducator and teacher support in special education classrooms, and maintaining low teacher ratio for great individualized instruction.

How much time will it take for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on the state assessments if the budget actions would be implemented?

We measure growth each year and document in our KESA plans our success on a variety of student success factors. We emphasize growth for all students. Although we do this and are proud of the work we do, many factors make it impossible to estimate a time that every student achieves grade level proficiency. Such factors include a lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to fully meet the needs of all students, and while assessment scores are one measure, Brookwood does not believe that students assessment scores should be the sole measure of student proficiency, especially when the assessment has zero impact on their future.

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Board Rationale/Comments

The Shawnee Mission School District faces challenging budget needs given the commitment to meeting aspirational state and district education goals for every student. The district continues to work to limit central administrative costs to less than 5% of the total budget. Following an analysis of student needs, the district has worked to maintain in the district budget a full-time social worker position in every school, a full-time instructional coach in every school, and Real World Learning counselors at each of the five comprehensive high schools.

The following positions have been added to support buildings to better meet the needs of our 26,440 students: two (2) assistant principal positions at our larger middle schools; three (3) intervention specialists; two (2) Special Education instructional coaches; two (2) ELL teachers; six (6) additional teaching positions and thirty (30) paraprofessional positions. The district will continue to analyze budget funds for the 2024-25 school year, in order to determine the ability to maintain the following positions that were added with ESSER funding: additional support for nursing services; additional secondary math teachers; building substitutes for every building; and class-size reduction at the elementary level.

In addition, the district has increased professional learning opportunities for all teachers, including hosting a major conference on Professional Learning Communities and sending large numbers of staff to a conference on Response to Intervention. We will continue to prioritize equitable allocation of resources to create a welcoming and engaging learning experience for every student — facilitating personalized learning plans, targeting career and college readiness, with the interpersonal skills for life success.

The percentage of Brookwood students performing at College and Career Ready (Levels 2, 3 or 4) on ELA and Math state assessments remains significantly above the state’s average. While students have experienced significant learning disruptions over the past few years, state assessment performance reflected minimal academic decline. Brookwood has strong parent involvement and a strong PTA. Like many other schools, Brookwood is challenged to provide all students with the social-emotional support they need to facilitate learning growth.

Our routine use of multiple measures to assess student growth, school climate and equitable practices will serve to inform the best use of finite resources looking ahead.

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