Mill Creek Elementary

13951 W. 79th Street
Shawnee, KS 66215
913-993-3700

Principal: Jonathan Ferrell
Grades Served: K-6
KSDE Bldg #: 8819

Feeder Pattern: Trailridge MS & SM
Northwest HS

Notable School Characteristics

- Comprehensive school serving students in grades K-6
- Talented, dedicated teacher team that is committed to ensuring high achievement for all students
- High levels of community engagement
- Recognized as a State PTA School of Excellence 2021-2023
- Consistently high academic achievement on Kansas State Assessment and MAP Assessment.

KSDE Building Report Card

[Link to Mill Creek Elementary Building Report Card]

Sec. 8. On and after July 1, 2021, K.S.A. 72-1163 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-1163. (a) Each year the board of education of a school district shall conduct an assessment of the educational needs of each attendance center in the district. Information obtained from such needs-assessment shall be used by the board when preparing the budget of the school district to ensure improvement in student academic performance. The budget of the school district shall allocate sufficient moneys in a manner reasonably calculated such that all students may achieve the goal set forth in K.S.A. 72-3218(c), and amendments thereto. The board also shall prepare a summary of the budget for the school district. The budgets and summary shall be in the form prescribed by the director pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2926, and amendments thereto.
Needs Analysis

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

There are always a number of challenges that should be considered when evaluating student success in a district. Some of the key barriers that impact Mill Creek Elementary include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of special education funding
- Students with severe special needs
- Increasing levels of students facing trauma
- Difficulty in retaining and attracting highly qualified teachers

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
- Additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and SEL needs of all students at Mill Creek Elementary.
- Increased funding and time for Professional Learning Communities to meet to ensure high levels of academic achievement.
- Maintain a low teacher ratio for improved individualized instruction.
- Increased innovation specialists teachers for student intervention in reading and mathematics.

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?

While our board of education, administration, teachers and classified staff work tirelessly to meet the academic and social emotional needs of all of our students, too many factors come into play that do not allow us to accurately assess when all students will be at a certain level. Some of those include:

- Lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to fully meet the needs of all students.

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SHAWNEE MISSION
SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Needs Assessment for 2023-2024
- While assessment scores are one measure, Mill Creek Elementary does not believe that student assessment scores should be the sole measure of student proficiency, especially when the assessment has zero impact on their future.

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 Mill Creek Elementary students performing at College and Career Ready on state assessments (Levels 2, 3 or 4) has consistently remained above state averages. However, students have experienced significant learning disruptions over the past few years. A drop in ELA and Math assessments Spring 2021, triggered by the global pandemic, returned to pre-pandemic performance levels by Spring 2022. Mill Creek is committed to the challenge of providing 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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School Needs Assessment for 2023-2024