Westwood View Elementary

4935 Belinder Ave
Westwood, KS 66205
913-993-5800

Principal: Kathy Keith
Grades Served: K-6
KSDE Bldg #: 8864

Feeder Pattern: Indian Hills MS & SME HS

Notable School Characteristics

- We provide each student a diverse education in a safe supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning.
- Currently serving slightly over 300 students in 5 different municipalities; Westwood, Westwood Hills, Mission Woods and a portion of the cities of Fairway and Mission Hills.
- Our ongoing emphasis for our school is to provide all students with real world learning opportunities by utilizing the integration of technology to its fullest potential.
- We are a community centered, family-oriented school in which both academics and personal growth are emphasized.
- We have a newly built, state of the art building facility with two outdoor classrooms and many collaborative spaces to maximize student learning.
- We have three designated, state of the art Makerspaces. Makerspaces foster innovation through hands-on experimentation. Students have the opportunity to be creative and apply personalized learning strategies.
- Our playground is state of the art, with a turf soccer field to support our community’s interest. Our goal is to create a sense of community by building on the interest and strengths of our students.

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.
KSDE Building Report Card

Westwood View Elementary Building Report Card

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 Westwood View include:

- Building Strong relationships, with COVID, relationships were affected with on-line learning. Supporting a SEL curriculum, a social worker and a counselor are able to focus on rebuilding strong relationships with students, teachers and parents.
- Pre-school opportunities, at Westwood View we do not have preschool classrooms. Building on the early learning of students is key to students’ academic success. With the new building and additional classroom, focusing on growth and building a Pre-school learning environment would be beneficial to all students.
- Teachers’ need for curriculum support and building a collaborative learning environment is a need. Full-time instructional coaches, on-site, focusing on building professional learning environments would support the barrier by supporting this need.
- Focusing on closing the gap between special education students and general education students is a barrier. The need for more specialized intervention instruction and support staff would support this need.

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

At Westwood view, our students face an increasing number of barriers to success and we continually work to support them. Current budget constraints that impact our ability to successfully remove barriers for our students include:

- Increased funding for PreK, adding additional staff to support PreK classrooms.
- Increased funding and time for PLCs to meet, supporting a full time Instructional Coach to continue to build a collaborative learning environment.
- Additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and social emotional learning needs of all students; to continue to support a full time social worker and additional funds to support a district funded full time counselor.
- Support funding to keep and retain quality full time para support, and interventionist to support closing the gaps between special education and general education.

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?

Many factors come into play that makes us unable to determine when all students will reach grade level proficiency on state assessments. These factors include:

- Lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to full meet the needs of all students.
- An increased level of social emotional challenges and needs of students due to the impact of COVID.
- Lack of funding for pre-K programs.

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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 Westwood students performing at College and Career Ready on state assessments has consistently been well above state average for several years, through 2022. While both ELA and Math assessments reflected a slight COVID decline in Spring 2021, both assessments have returned to pre-pandemic levels in Spring 2022. School staff continue to focus on culture, creating meaningful relationships, and developing effective Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to increase student performance. Westwood View staff are also committed to the challenge of providing all students with the social-emotional support they need.

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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