Shawnee Mission West High School

8800 W. 85th Street
Overland Park, KS 66212
913-993-7800

Principal: Steve Loe
Grades Served: 9th - 12th
KSDE Bldg #: 8894

Feeder Pattern:
- Apache Elementary
- Christa McAuliffe Elementary
- Comanche Elementary
- Lenexa Hills Elementary
- Overland Park Elementary
- Pawnee Elementary
- Rising Star Elementary
- Sunflower Elementary
- Westridge Middle School

Notable School Characteristics

- Comprehensive high school serving students in grades 9-12
- We embrace diversity among our students, staff, and community
- An inclusive environment that embraces all types of learners
- Multiple extra-curricular and co-curricular opportunities for student involvement
- Rigorous and engaging curriculum that supports multiple levels of learning

KSDE Building Report Card

Shawnee Mission West 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 Shawnee Mission West High School include:

- Transient population of students
- Students that do not speak English fluently
- Lack of special education funding
- Significant percent of students living in poverty
- Difficulty in retaining and attracting highly qualified teachers and staff

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

Our students face a growing number of barriers to success and Shawnee Mission West High School continually works to support them. An increase in budget opportunities that would positively impact our ability to successfully remove barriers for our students include:

- Increased salary to recruit and retain highly qualified certified and classified staff
- Additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and Social and Emotional Learning needs of all students and staff (i.e. counselor, social worker, life coach, interventionist, additional nurse, full-time behavior specialist in building, etc.)
- Full-time Spanish-speaking Interpreter
- Increase paraeducator and teacher support in special education classrooms
- Additional certification training for staff (i.e ESL Endorsement, etc.)
- Increase hours of operation for our Health Partnership Clinic

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?

There is no way to accurately predict how children will respond to our interventions because we cannot fix the daily challenges they face. Many factors impact students’ academic achievement, such as:

- Ever-changing population of students bringing a varying degree of cognitive abilities and disabilities which preclude us from being able to guarantee a date when all students will meet a singular level of proficiency.
- Lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to fully meet the needs of all students.
- While assessment scores are one measure, Shawnee Mission West High School 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.

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Similar to how other professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, etc. cannot ensure 100% success due to a variety of obstacles, we will likely be unable to achieve 100% proficiency.

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.

Shawnee Mission West is home to a diverse population of learners, including some with special education and English language learning needs. This budget prioritizes investments in ELL teachers, paraprofessionals and special education instructional coaches, all of which are stated needs of Shawnee Mission West. The district’s investment in professional learning communities and sufficient time for collaboration by educators will be helpful to Shawnee Mission West and similar schools.

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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