

# COMMUNITY REPORT 2024



**FORWARD TOGETHER:**  
PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIP AND PROMISE IN KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Greetings From Kennewick School District!



**Dr. Traci Pierce**  
Superintendent

Each year, we publish a Community Report to provide a district update for our community. This report highlights the important work we are doing to accomplish our mission and vision, and the progress we are making to achieve our strategic goals.

In this community report, you will find:

- ▶ **KSD by the Numbers:** See page 2 for current enrollment and staffing data, along with current budget, revenue, and expenditure data.
  - ▶ **Focus on Students:** See pages 3-5 for highlights associated with our three student-focused goals:
    - ▶ *All Students are Safe, Known and Valued*
    - ▶ *All Students are Engaged Learners*
    - ▶ *All Students are Ready for Their Future*
- Read about our new Elementary School Safety Officers, curriculum-related efforts, and the work we are doing to explore adding a financial literacy graduation requirement!
- ▶ **Focus on Families, Staff & Community:** See pages 6-8 to learn about our progress toward meeting our staff, family and community-focused goals. Learn about our efforts to support staff in the work of Professional Learning Communities, expand language access for families and connect volunteers with opportunities at our schools.
  - ▶ **Focus on Facilities & Finances:** See page 9 for the latest update on our construction projects and learn more about levy funding and the future financial health of the district.

Each new school year brings successes and challenges, and we continue to remain focused on achieving our goals and accomplishing our vision for all KSD students to be known well, safe and destined to reach their highest potential.

We are grateful to be part of this supportive community and committed to serving Kennewick students and families!

## Board of Directors



**Gabe Galbraith**  
President  
Position 2



**Micah Valentine**  
Vice President  
Position 1



**Brittany Gledhill**  
Legislative  
Representative  
Position 4



**Michael Connors**  
Director  
Position 3



**Dr. Josh Miller**  
Director  
Position 5



**Mallory Dupaquier**  
Student Representative  
Kennewick High School  
(Class of 2024)

## Superintendent's Cabinet

**Matt Scott**  
Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Education

**Alyssa St. Hilaire**  
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

**PROUD TO BE KSD!**



# KSD BY THE NUMBERS

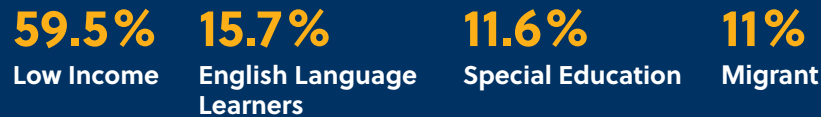
## STUDENT ENROLLMENT 5-YEAR TREND

(Headcount as of October 1, 2023)



## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

(Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year)



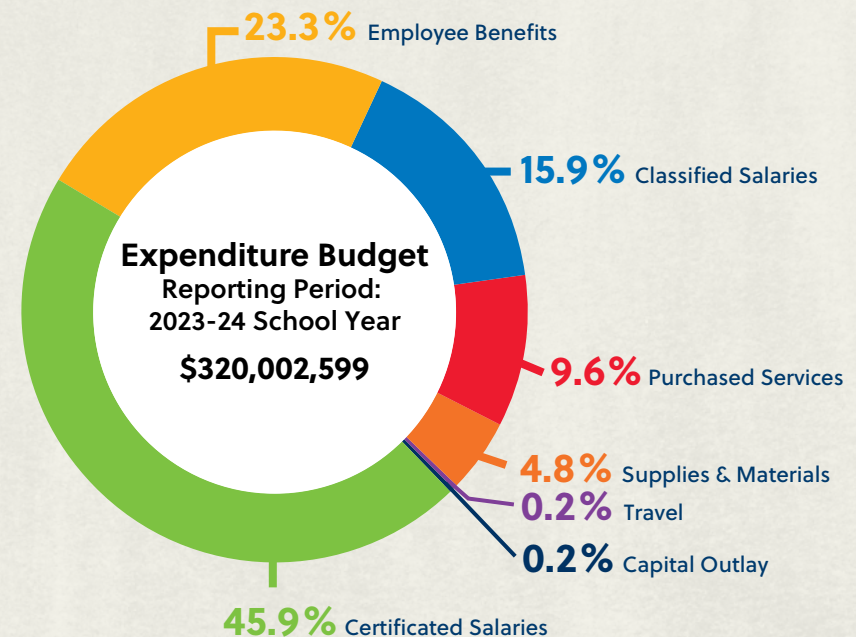
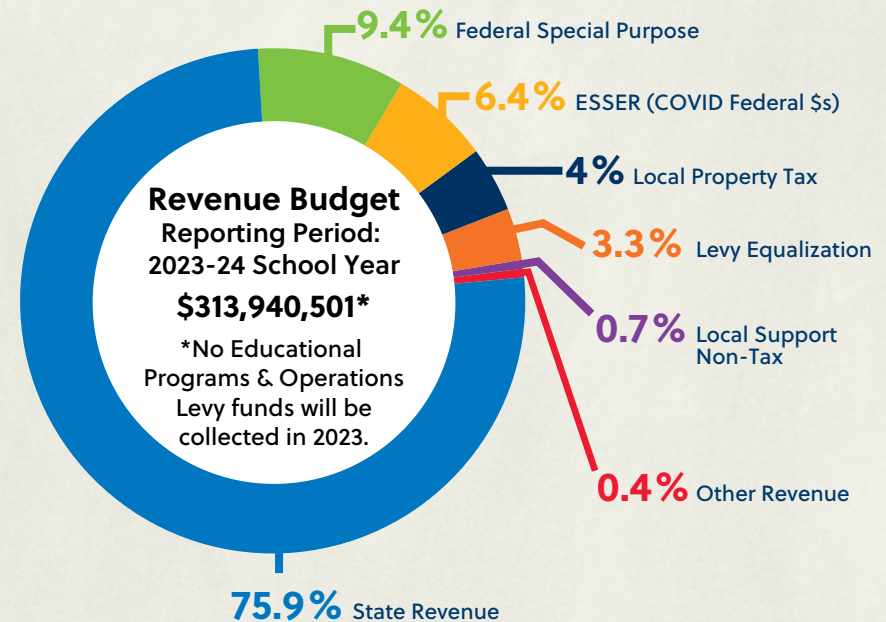
## CERTIFICATED & CLASSIFIED STAFF

(Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year)



## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

(Reporting Period: 2021-22 School Year)



The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) publishes an online annual report card for the Kennewick School District, offering insights into school and district performance across various student metrics including assessment proficiency, graduation rates, student growth, and disciplinary actions. This overview also provides information on classroom teachers, covering aspects like qualifications and student-to-teacher ratios. Additionally, it covers financial details, highlighting per-pupil expenditures and the breakdown of state and local funding.



View OSPI's Report Card [www.ksd.org/reportcard](http://www.ksd.org/reportcard)



## FOCUS ON STUDENTS

**Goal:** All Students Are Safe, Known and Valued



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Student Safety & Security
- Student Social-Emotional Well-Being
- Student Attendance
- Student Voice & Value

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- ▶ **85%** of students reporting they feel safe, included and welcomed at school on the annual student survey
- ▶ **76%** of students regularly attending school (<2 excused or unexcused absences on average per month)
- ▶ **4.8%** of students receiving out-of-school exclusionary discipline

### Safety First: Innovative Officer Program Launches in Elementary Schools

As the district continues to look to enhance safety, Elementary School Safety Officers (SSOs) were introduced in the 2023-24 academic year, thanks to funding from the local Educational Program & Operations Levy.

With an ongoing recruitment process, the district aims to ensure every elementary school benefits from the presence of SSOs. These officers do more than traditional security; they build meaningful connections within the school community, participate in emergency preparedness, and engage in regular drills, all while being supported by a partnership with the Kennewick Police Department (KPD). This collaboration ensures SSOs receive top-tier training in critical response skills, including de-escalation techniques and active shooter scenarios, and provides them with essential tools like access to police radio channels for emergency communication. This comprehensive approach not only strengthens the physical security of schools but also nurtures a safe and inclusive environment conducive to learning and growth.



## FOCUS ON STUDENTS

**Goal: All Students Are Engaged Learners**



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Support for Student Learning
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Programs
- Student Academic Progress & Growth

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- ▶ **50%** inclusion rate for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- ▶ **88%** of students reporting having access to diverse course offerings, activities, and athletics
- ▶ **64%** of middle and high school students participating in at least one athletic or activity

### Exciting Changes Ahead: Our New K-5 Math Curriculum Review

In the 2023-24 school year, our district initiated a K-5 math curriculum review, aiming to elevate educational standards. The new math curriculum will align with Washington's Learning Standards for Elementary Mathematics, focusing on critical mathematical concepts and ensuring every student has access to quality education and state-of-the-art digital tools. The new math resources will meet varied learning needs, making math both accessible and engaging. A crucial phase of this process involves parent feedback, allowing for a community-informed decision. Recommendations from this collaborative review will be presented to the school board in spring 2024, with the goal of implementing the updated curriculum in the 2024-25 school year. This initiative marks a significant step towards ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills for future success.

Check out the District Performance Indicators and Targets at [www.ksd.org/strategicplan](http://www.ksd.org/strategicplan) to see specific progress by grade level in the areas of annual growth, meeting grade level standards, on-track for graduation, and multilingual learner students making yearly growth and demonstrating English language proficiency.



## FOCUS ON STUDENTS

**Goal:** All Students Are Ready For Their Future



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Digital Citizenship, Social Life & Employment Skills
- Dual Language
- Graduation & Post-Secondary Pathways

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- ▶ **78%** of students, **88%** of families, and **88%** of staff reporting that students have opportunities to learn the digital citizenship, social, life and employment skills within the KSD Learner Profile
- ▶ **74%** of students/parents interested in dual language have access to the program

### Exploring Financial Literacy as Key Component of High School Education

At the start of the 2023-24 school year, KSD started exploring the idea of adopting a financial literacy graduation requirement for all high school students. This class would teach important skills like how to budget, save money and make smart choices about spending and investing. Understanding money can make a big difference in being ready for adult life and feeling secure about financial matters. The district plans to study a variety of options, including whether financial literacy should be a new class or if existing classes could be modified to integrate financial literacy. The district plans to make a recommendation to the school board during 2024.

- ▶ **86%** of high school students completing at least one dual credit, college-level course by the end of grade 12
- ▶ **87%** of students graduating in five years (Class of 2021)



## FOCUS ON FAMILIES

**Goal:** All Families Are Key Partners



### Focus Area for 2023-24

- Family Engagement, Education & Communication

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- ▶ **87%** of families reporting feeling respected and welcomed in their children's schools
- ▶ **82%** of families reporting having opportunities to engage with schools to help their children succeed
- ▶ **80%** of families reporting having opportunities to learn about and provide input on district and school programs

### Breaking Language Barriers: New Initiative Ensures Access for Parents

Starting with the 2023-24 school year, our schools are excited to introduce a new language access initiative, ensuring parents who speak Spanish and have limited language proficiency in English, can fully engage with their child's education. Making important school communications, meetings, and documents available in Spanish is more important than ever. It's a step forward in making sure every family feels included and informed about their child's learning journey. Whether it's report cards, parent-teacher conferences, or important announcements, we're committed to breaking down language barriers. This initiative reflects our belief that a strong partnership between school and home is key to student success. We're here to support every family in our diverse community, ensuring all parents have the information they need to be active participants in their child's education.

To learn more about KSD's Language Access initiative, visit [www.ksd.org/languageaccess](http://www.ksd.org/languageaccess)



## FOCUS ON STAFF

**Goal:** All Staff Members Are Safe, Respected And Valued Professionals



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Staff Recruitment, Hiring & Retention
- Staff Value, Voice & Recognition
- Staff Training, Professional Growth & Performance

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- ▶ The number of Labor & Industry (L&I) claims filed each year is **2.8%** of the total number of employees
- ▶ The percentage of time loss L&I claims is **4.9%**
- ▶ **91%** of staff indicating they work in safe and positive environments, collaborate with colleagues, and feel valued

### Transforming Education: KSD's Commitment to Collaborative Teaching for Student Success

KSD continues to build Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that shift the educational focus from teaching to learning, harnessing the power of educator collaboration to ensure student success. PLCs focus on three core principles: ensuring students learn, fostering a culture of collaboration, and focusing on results. These principles guide our schools towards sustained improvement by promoting shared responsibility for student learning, systematic collaboration among teachers, and the use of data to drive instructional decisions. The success of PLCs hinges on commitment to these ideals, implying that a true professional learning community goes beyond mere cooperation, embedding these principles deeply into the school's culture for lasting educational improvement.

- ▶ The percentage of district staff diversity compared to overall community diversity is **16%**
- ▶ **91%** district staff retention

**We're hiring! Check out open positions at [www.ksd.org/careers](http://www.ksd.org/careers)**



## FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

**Goal:** All Community Members Are Important Collaborators



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Community Partnerships
- Community Engagement & Communications
- Community Value & Appreciation

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- **4,438** community members were approved to volunteer in the school district

### A Community Effort: Enhancing Education Through Volunteerism

We are fortunate to benefit from outstanding support from family and community school volunteers who play a vital role in enriching the educational experience for students. Their involvement creates a supportive and engaging learning environment that extends beyond the classroom walls. By volunteering their time, skills and resources, they help in broaden educational opportunities, foster a sense of community and enhance student achievement. The participation of volunteers in school activities and decision-making processes also strengthens the partnership between schools and communities, ensuring that educational initiatives are aligned with the priorities our community. Moreover, the presence of volunteers inspires students, showing them the importance of community engagement and lifelong learning.

Interested in volunteering? Apply at [www.ksd.org/volunteer](http://www.ksd.org/volunteer)



## FOCUS ON FACILITIES AND FINANCES

**Goal: The Kennewick School District Is Innovative, Proactive And Accountable**



### Focus Areas for 2023-24

- Facilities Planning
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Continuous Improvement, Transparency & Strategic Planning

### Progress

*Reporting Period: 2022-23 School Year*

- The unassigned, minimum fund balance is **3.5%** of the total district budget

### Community Investment Pays Off: Kennewick Schools Enter a New Era of Excellence

In January 2024, Ridge View Elementary School opened its doors, marking the culmination of the 2019 Capital Projects Bond—an endeavor that has reshaped the educational landscape in Kennewick. This final project joins the ranks of newly developed Kennewick High School and expanded education and athletic facilities at Kamiakin and Southridge High Schools, alongside the significant renovation of Amistad Elementary. Funded by local bond dollars and supplemented by the state's School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), the bond reinforces our community's commitment to providing state-of-the-art educational environments for students.

The successful passage of a technology levy in 2022 and the local Education Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy in February 2023 provides student supports in the areas of health and safety, student learning, staffing, and athletics and activities. This support comes at a crucial time, especially after the tax hiatus in 2023 due to the levy failures the previous year.

**THANK YOU  
KENNEWICK VOTERS!**