

Trailridge Middle School

7500 Quivira Road
Shawnee, KS 66216
913-993-1000

Principal: Matt Engler
Grades Served: 7-8
KSDE Bldg #: 8884

Feeder Pattern: Shawnee Mission Northwest



Notable School Characteristics

- Trailridge is a diverse learning community serving approximately 750 students.
- Offers a wide range of courses to support a personalized learning experience.
- A supportive school community that celebrates and values the unique cultures of our students.
- Supports student growth through extra-curricular activities, clubs, and athletics.
- Robust Special Education program that is home to the middle school emotional and behavioral support program for the district.
- New student furniture and learning spaces throughout the building that promote innovative and collaborative learning.

KSDE Building Report Card

[Trailridge Middle School Building Report Card](#)

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Needs Analysis

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

*Grade level proficiency is defined by state law as scoring “above level 2” on state assessments, yet actual grade level performance is most closely related to state assessment scores above level 1.

- Prioritization of safety and security of all students and staff through relocation of main office
- Full funding for Special Education
- Severe needs of Special Education students
- High levels of students facing trauma
- Recovery of skills missed/not mastered during COVID
- The social/emotional needs of our students impact achievement
- Limited applicants for certified and classified positions has impacted our ability to recruit and retain highly qualified staff
- Limited resources to support and serve our increasing ELL students, and to engage their families
- Reading deficiencies continue to impact overall achievement.
- Overload on administration and office personnel responding to major discipline and intense social emotional needs in a timely manner.

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

- Increased pay to recruit and retain certified and classified staff.
- BIST Consultant Contract to provide consistent behavioral training to our staff in increase consistency with responses.
- Additional office aide position to assist with registrar responsibilities and athletics.
- Additional counseling position to help meet the SEL needs of our students.
- Additional certified and classified positions to help meet the needs of our special education and ELL students.
- Increase in building wide programs and training to address reading proficiency. Staff training to implement the programs across all curriculums.
- Continuation of building-wide IXL usage to support growth in reading achievement.
- Dedicated additional Athletic Director position.

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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?

*Again, state law defines grade level proficiency as scoring “above level 2” while actual grade level performance is most closely related to scores above level 1 on state assessments.

It is difficult to determine the time necessary for all students to achieve grade level proficiency on state assessments. While we agree that state assessments are an important data point, Trailridge believes that this should not be the only criteria for assessing proficiency. We are dedicated to personalizing instructional plans for each of our students, as we recognize and value growth, knowing that all students learn at different rates, and in different ways. There are many factors that impact a student’s ability and readiness to learn. These factors include:

- Special education students with severe needs that impact their cognitive, physical, and emotional development.
 - Increased number of students experiencing and recovering from traumatic events in their home lives.
 - Recovery of unmastered skills during time out of the classroom related to COVID.
 - 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.
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Board Rationale/Comments

The Shawnee Mission School District maintains focus on its commitment to meeting aspirational state and district education goals for every student. The district continues to budget conservatively, working to limit central administrative costs to less than 5% of the total budget. Over the past several years, the district has focused on responding to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including learning recovery, an increase in chronic absenteeism, and an enhanced need for social and emotional support for students.

The district has used information from needs assessments conducted at each building to make focused staff allocations at the building level. These include specific needs identified by large numbers of schools, including additional teacher allocations to maintain lower class sizes at the elementary level, providing a building substitute at each building, increased paraprofessional/teacher support in special education classrooms, and higher salaries for both certified and classified staff. In addition, following a comprehensive analysis of student needs, the district continues 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 district was able to use additional state funding, (including an increase in the at-risk weighting and an increase to the base, along with a corresponding increase in the Local Option Budget) to add positions identified in individual building needs assessments across our 48 attendance centers/specialized programs. These positions include the following:

- 10 special education teachers, 5.25 para-educators, an autism coach, 2 speech language pathologists, an occupational therapist, 2 school psychologists, and 2 special education coordinators.
- 5 elementary interventionists
- An additional instructional coach for Horizons and for Early childhood
- 4 ELL teachers
- A teacher on assignment
- 3 floating nurses and
- 2 administrative interns

The district is also maintaining the following positions in the operating funds at least for one more year:

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- Elementary class size will remain at 22 for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 25 for 3rd through 6th grades.
- Ten additional teachers at the secondary level to support learning recovery.
- At least one building sub at each building in the district.

The district will continue to analyze budget funds for the 2024-25 school year, in order to determine the ability to maintain the positions listed above 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.

Trailridge Middle School renovations, as part of the 2021 bond measure, creates a more safe and secure entry as well as a fresh look and boost to the school climate. As an established school, Trailridge is new to the work of staff retention in this current climate of staff shortages. For the past three years, Shawnee Mission School District has used ESSER funds to provide a one-time retention stipend for all building staff. It's important to ensure that schools are empowered with sufficient funds to recruit and retain quality staff to best meet student needs.

In addition, the district will continue to support increased professional learning opportunities for all teachers, with a focus on Professional Learning Communities and 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.

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