




2022-2023 Annual Report



▶ A message from KPS Superintendent Jason Mundorf

Welcome to the Annual Report for Kearney Public Schools! As our data will reflect, Kearney Public Schools sets the standard for excellence in all of our pursuits. Whether it's our top-notch academics, our prolific athletic programs, or our varied and elite arts programs, Kearney Public Schools has a place of success for every student. Our committed leaders, teachers, and staff partner with our parents and community jointly working tirelessly to provide the best possible educational experience for our students. The results show they are successful in that endeavor! We are all blessed to live and work in this fantastic community and we remain committed to developing students who are "inspired and empowered to impact their world"!

~Jason Mundorf



“Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today.”

—Malcom X



Steven Gaasch



Drew Blessing



Kathy Gifford



Alex Straatmann

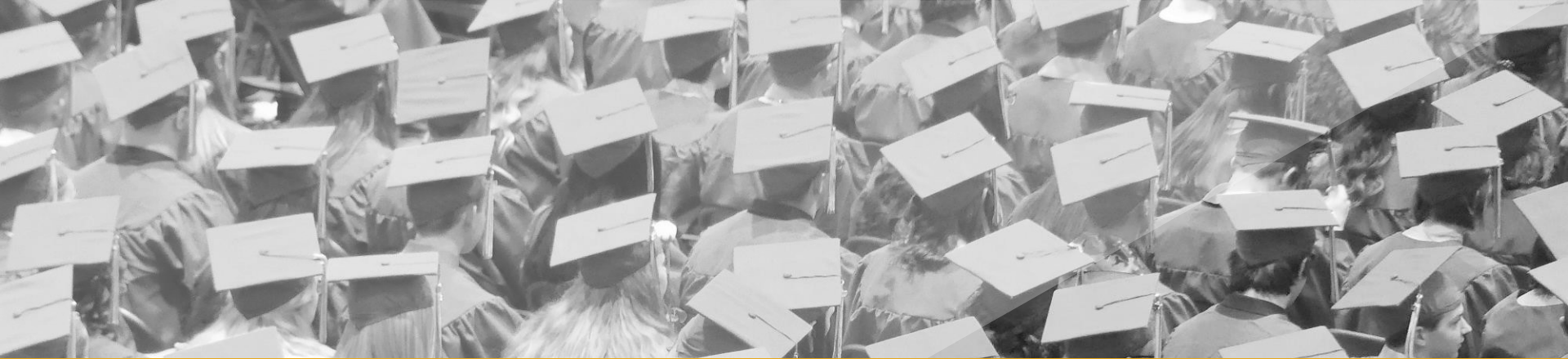


Wendy Kreis



Dave Brandt

Kearney Public Schools **Board of Education**



The KPS Vision

KPS will provide a safe, supportive learning community that empowers students to become problem-solvers, engaged citizens, and compassionate people who own their future.

The KPS Mission

Inspire & empower students to impact the world!



The logo consists of a stylized blue and yellow circular graphic to the left of the text 'KPS Beliefs'.

KPS Beliefs

- Public education benefits the entire community and teaches positive citizenship, and is the shared responsibility of all.
- Education addresses the whole child's development: academic, social-emotional, personal health and well-being .
- Instruction addresses critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity in a global society.
- High expectations promote higher achievement.
- Education should be tailored to every student's needs.
- Every student should take ownership of their education.
- Everyone is entitled to a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment.



► Our district **by the NUMBERS**

5,731
STUDENTS

- 93% Graduation Rate
- 35% Free/Reduced
- 3% English Learners
- 8% Gifted
- 15% Special Education
- 5.9% Mobility Rate
- 74% College Bound

1
KCLC

The Kearney Community Learning Center is an afterschool program that serves 10 schools.

15
SCHOOLS

- 1 High School
- 2 Middle Schools
- 1 Center for Success
- 10 Elementary Schools.
- 1 Preschool

870
STAFF

- 29 Administrators
- 432 Teachers
- 201 Paraeducators
- 9 Technology
- 33 Transportation
- 82 Food Service
- 58 Facilities
- 40 Clerical

19
Languages

Our families speak 19 diverse languages. Nearly 355 students have a home language that is not English



Focus on Improvement

Kearney Public Schools has created our next Strategic Development Plan for the years 2023-2027.

The process was started in the 21-22 school year with research and surveys of KPS classified and certified employees, students, parents, community members and businesses.

That information was used to develop strategic plans for the growth of our school district.

Strategic Plan - Pillar 1

College & Career Readiness

KPS is committed to a high quality Career and Technical Education experience which helps bridge the transition from our classroom to business and industry. KHS has courses and programs of study in all six Nebraska Career Fields for students to investigate their career interests. Many career and technical education classes have guest speakers, job shadowing, and field trips included. Students also have the opportunity to participate in any of the seven Nebraska Career and Technical Student Organizations (DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Educators Rising, HOSA Future Health Professionals, and SkillsUSA). As they proceed through high school juniors and seniors may participate in Extended Learning Opportunities to dig deeper into their interests. Our Extended Learning Opportunities include dual credit, early college, online career education courses, Cooperative Education, and verified internships.

Business volunteers joined KHS in providing a mock interview experience for 300 seniors in December. In February, our freshmen visit UNK and CCC at Kearney. Sophomores participate in UNL Connect the Dots, a career exploration simulation. Juniors go on college visits to 16 different Nebraska colleges and universities. The seniors participate in business tours and a job shadow/career interview experiences.

College & Career Readiness Coordinator
Tennille Allison tenallison@keameycats.com



Strategic Plan - Pillar 2

Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum

KPS developed the Hanny Arram Center for Success which focuses on improving educational opportunities with specific targeted support for students in grades 6-12. The Center offers a variety of flexible alternative educational programs, therapeutic support, support for suspended students, and a 6-12 virtual academy. The Center also has an after-school tutoring program for students in grades 3-12 who receive 1:1 support from a UNK Teacher Scholar tutor.

The Pk-5 department has created pacing guides, organized website, and targeted professional development to support all students access to resources, interventions, materials, and services

KPS 6-12 teachers are focused on updating and revisiting their curriculum pacing guides and unit plans to ensure optimal vertical and horizontal alignment with a focus on mastery of state standards.



Strategic Plan - Pillar 3

Teacher Retention & Recruitment

In Kearney Public Schools, we believe that every great educational experience is a product of a highly-trained, outstanding staff member. We strive to support our teachers and staff with a bevy of quality professional development experiences improving their ability to deliver excellent instruction to our student learners. We further believe that the future of education is foundationally related to our ability to attract, retain, and develop excellent educators who are committed to their students.



Strategic Plan - Pillar 4

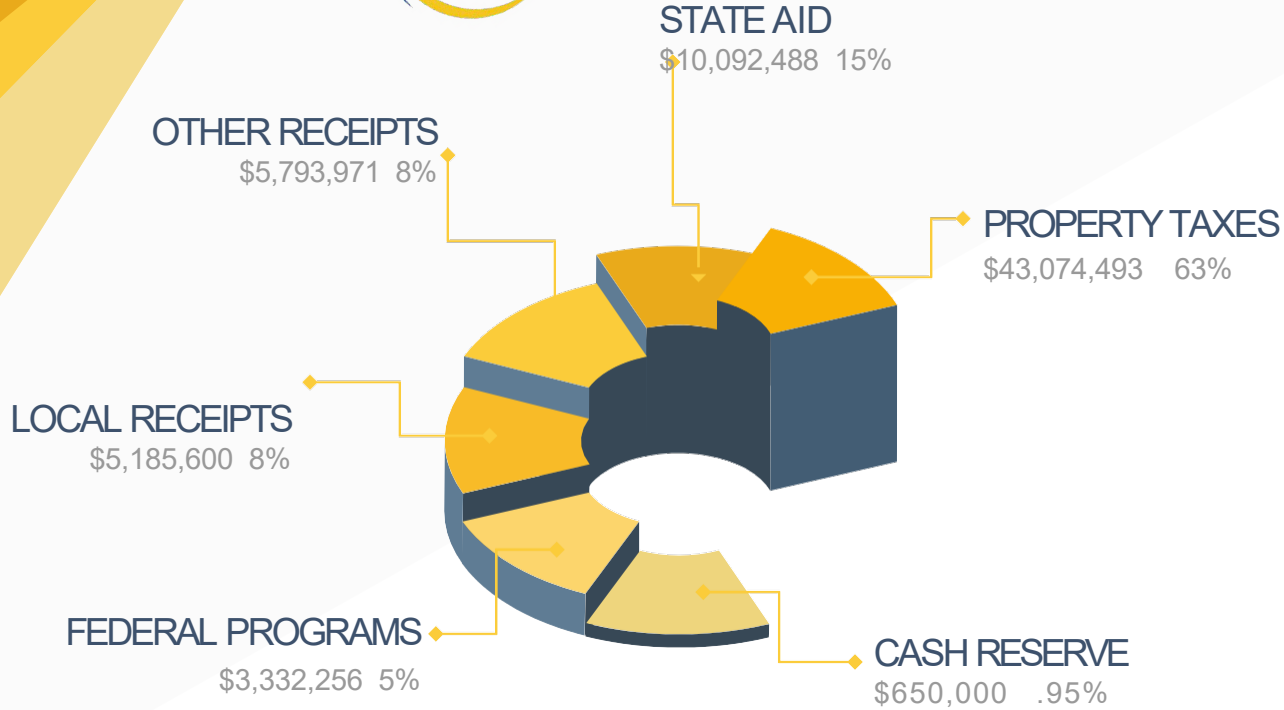
Social-Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning was at the forefront of education for this Strategic Plan. Second Steps curriculum was implemented K-8 with the support of the school counselors. The program has been implemented in our KCLC after school program and was also incorporated in the KPS #BeKind program with weekly missions.

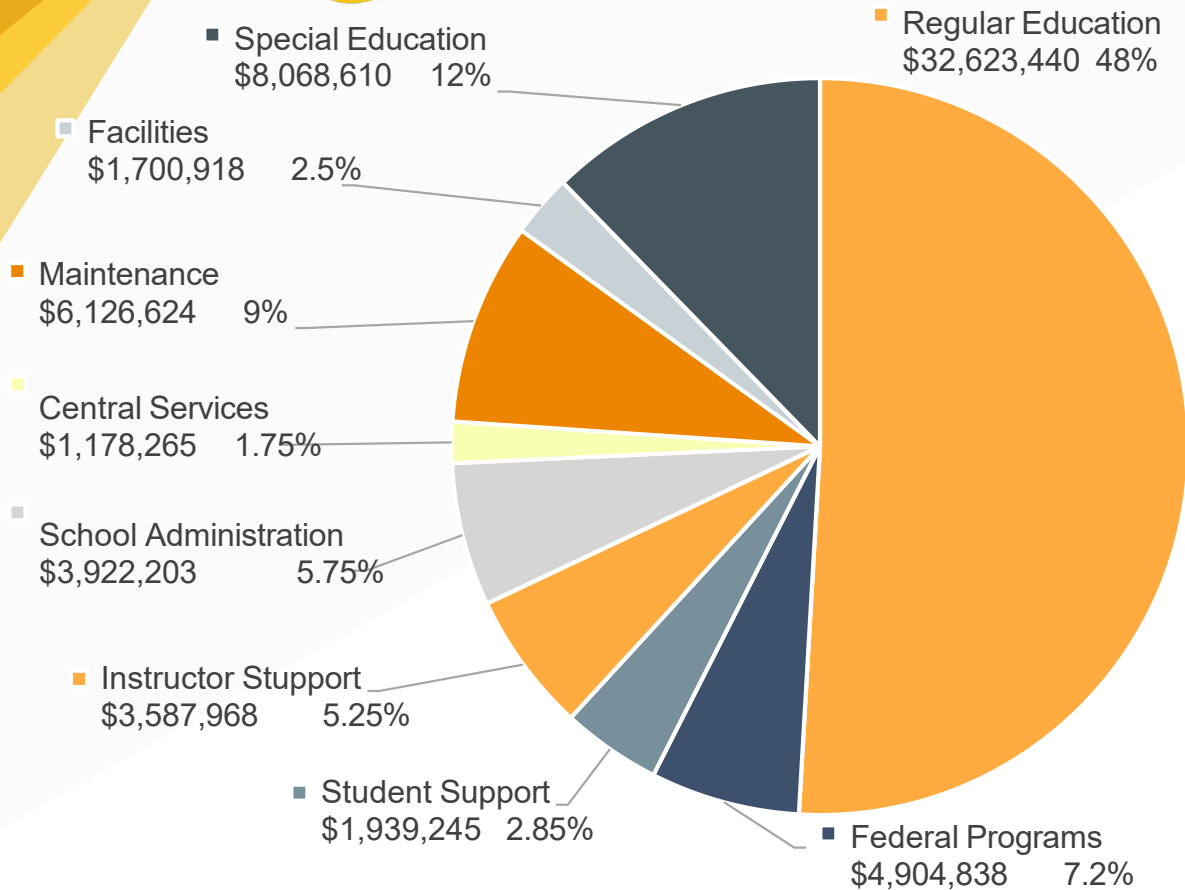
School Connect is the social-emotional curriculum used at the high school level and is implemented in Bearcat Time. School Connect emphasizes skills needed in adulthood: problem solving, Critical thinking, creativity, people management, Coordinating with others, emotional intelligence. Judgment and decision-making, service orientation, negotiation, cognitive flexibility.



Financial Income = \$68,128,808



Financial Expenditures = \$68,128,808



How KPS used increased resources

- KPS met the challenges of hiring and retaining classified, exempt and certified staff. This can be directly attributed to a competitive job market and a low unemployment rate.
- Increase in numbers and additional expenses associated with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- KPS Board of Education has embarked on the district's Strategic Plan for the years 2022-2027 and is proactively planning for the future of KPS.
- QCPUF was used to improve many safety, accessibility, and air quality concerns throughout the district.



KPS School Budget

FUND	FY 23	FY 22	DIFFERENCE	CHANGE %
General	\$68,128,808	\$66,050,806	\$ 2,078,002	+3.15%
Special Building	\$ 2,614,762	\$ 2,937,643	-\$ 322,701	-10.99%
Bond	\$ 7,351,795	\$ 7,379,643	-\$ 27,848	-0.38%
QCPUF	\$12,476,214	N/A	\$12,476,214	N/A
Total	\$90,571,579	\$76,368,092	+\$14,203,667	18.6%

Tax Request

FUND	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	DIFFERENCE
General	\$40,540,877	\$43,074,493	\$2,533,616
Special Building	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
Bond Funds	\$7,346,621	\$7,351,795	\$5,174
QCPUF	\$0	\$0.3000	\$0
Total	\$47,887,498	\$52,047,502	\$4,160,004

Estimated Tax Levy

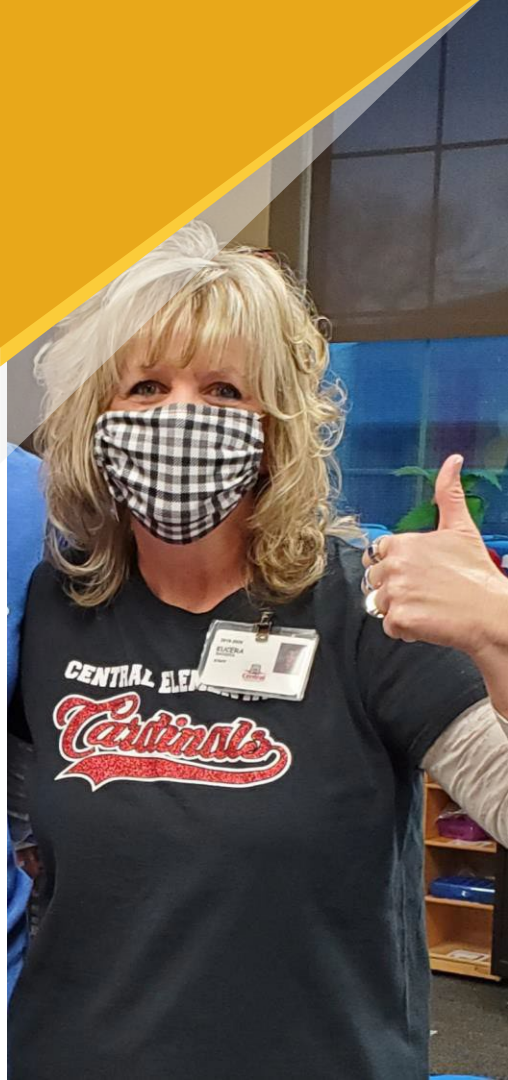
FUND	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	DIFFERENCE
General	\$1.004343	\$1.016537	\$0.012195
Special Building	\$0.023649	\$0.008260	-\$0.015389
Bond Funds	\$0.182008	\$0.173506	-\$0.008502
QCPUF	\$0	\$0.3000	\$0
Total	\$1.210000	\$1.228303	-\$0.018303



The ESSER Funds

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act of 2021](#). The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the pandemic.

OVERALL PROJECTS	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	Total
Professional Development	\$ 31,161.00	\$ 48,839.00			\$ 80,000.00
Cleaning	\$ -	\$ 64,000.00			\$ 64,000.00
Technology	\$ -		\$ 312,620.00		\$ 312,620.00
Curriculum Adoptions	\$ -		\$ 593,000.00	\$ 473,810.00	\$ 1,066,810.00
HVAC	\$ -	\$1,760,270.00	\$ 1,009,400.00		\$ 2,769,670.00
Arram Center Admin. Asst	\$ -	\$ 37,714.00	\$ 38,845.00	\$ 40,011.00	\$ 116,570.00
Arram Center Custodian	\$ -	\$ 44,992.00	\$ 46,342.00	\$ 47,732.00	\$ 139,066.00
Arram Center Social Worker	\$ -	\$ 68,165.00	\$ 68,150.00	\$ 70,194.00	\$ 204,509.00
Nurse (various)	\$ -	\$ 68,165.00	\$ 68,150.00	\$ 70,194.00	\$ 204,509.00
TOTALS	\$ 31,161.00	\$2,088,145.00	\$ 2,136,507.00	\$ 701,941.00	\$ 4,957,758.00



Our talented **TEACHERS**



Average Age = **41.8**



Number of Teachers = **432**



Average Years with KPS = **11.4**



Average Years of Experience = **15.5**



Teachers with Masters Degrees = **67%**

Award Winning **Administrators!**



Jenn True - Emerson

NSESP

Outstanding New Principal of the Year



Ryan Hogue - KHS

NSASSP

Assistant Principal of the Year



Our Incredible **KHS STUDENTS**

93%

Graduation Rate

74%

College Bound

89

President's Honor Roll recipients

25

ACT Honor Roll (30+ students. 25 scored above a 32.

89

KHS 4.0 Scholars Based on a cumulative 4-year score.

36

The perfect score that 2 KHS students earned on the ACT

2

KHS semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program

193

KHS students that take the ACT Prep Course

300

KHS students that take Advanced Placement and/or Dual Credit classes each year!



NDE AQUESTT RESULTS

Kearney Public Schools: **Great**

Excellent

Glenwood

Kenwood

Meadowlark

Park

Windy Hills

Great

Buffalo Hills

Central

Horizon Middle School

Good

Bryant

Emerson

Northeast

Sunrise Middle School

Kearney High School

Hastings: **Good**

Grand Island: **Good**

North Platte: **Good**

Fremont: **Needs Support**

Elkhorn: **Excellent**

11th Grade ACT Results

PERCENT OF STUDENTS MEETING EXPECTATIONS

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
KPS	45%	49%	54%
STATE	46%	44%	48%

AVERAGE SCALE SCORE

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
KPS	16.3	18.1	18.3
STATE	16.7	17.7	18.1

	COMPOSITE ACT SCORES
KPS	19.3
STATE	18.6



DISTRICT AVERAGE

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
KPS	57%	58%	79%
STATE	47%	46%	66%

AVERAGE BY GRADE

ELA			
	6TH	7TH	8TH
KPS	51%	55%	52%
STATE	44%	42%	46%

MATH			
	6TH	7TH	8TH
KPS	53%	52%	55%
STATE	46%	44%	41%

SCIENCE			
			8TH
KPS			77%
STATE			63%



DISTRICT AVERAGE

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
KPS	57%	58%	79%
STATE	47%	46%	66%

AVERAGE BY GRADE

ELA			
	3RD	4TH	5TH
KPS	63%	63%	57%
STATE	50%	53%	47%

MATH			
	3RD	4TH	5TH
KPS	63%	62%	64%
STATE	50%	46%	49%

SCIENCE			
			5TH
KPS			82%
STATE			71%



1:1 TECHNOLOGY

KPS has a 1:1 learning environment, meaning each student has one technology device. That's 5,731 devices! We used CARES Act and technology budget funding to make 1:1 a reality using Chromebooks. There are many benefits to using 1:1 technology in the classroom. It allows teachers to extend lessons beyond our classroom walls and engage students as global thinkers.



Activities

There are 39 Activities available for students at KHS. Nearly 1,000 students participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. KHS has the largest FFA Chapter in the State. KHS Activities are competitive at the State and/or National level. Additionally, KHS is only one of five Class A Schools to finish in the Top 10 of the All-School Activities Division of the NSAA's Cup Competition 13 of the past 15 years it has been conducted.

Arts

KHS has a rich history of stellar programming within all areas of our Fine and Performing Arts Department. Each area collaborates with professionals, compete at state and national levels, and provided enrichment through travel both nationally and internationally; in an effort to launch our performers to the next level. KPS consistently outperforms peers in band, orchestra, choir, theatre, and competitive theatrics (speech and One-Act).

Athletics

KHS is a Class A school, a member of the Nebraska School Activities Association, and the Heartland Athletic Conference. KHS is successful competing at the state level in all athletics with 43 State Championships and 61 Runner-Up Teams. The success that the Bearcats have experienced is second to none at the state level.



THANK YOU, KEARNEY

Kearney Public Schools would like to thank the Kearney Community for entrusting us with educating your children for the past 150 years!