



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

OUR MISSION

Inspiring Excellence:
Every Grownup, Every Child, Every Day.

OUR VISION

Striving to become one of the top 10
school districts in the nation.

OUR GOAL

Each student exits high school
prepared for college and careers
in global society; at every level,
performance is on track
and on time for success.

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Superintendent
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SPOTLIGHT ISSUES FOR THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- We support general supervision of public schools under the state Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, and licensure.
- We support management of public schools under locally elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management, and policies so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- We support suitable finance provided by the Kansas Legislature, including continued implementation of the constitutionally suitable school funding and inflationary adjustments approved by the Legislature, the Governor, and the Kansas Supreme Court.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING AND KPERS

- We support improving teacher recruitment and retention through local control of classroom content, respect for the teaching profession, and increased funding for salaries, including the inflationary adjustments approved by the Legislature and the state Supreme Court.

KCKPS POINTS OF PRIDE

- KCKPS is the 5th largest district in Kansas.
- USD 500 serves over 20,000 students.
- KCKPS demographics: 58% Hispanic, 22% Black, 9% White, 7% Asian
- 7 Preschool Sites, 28 Elementary Schools, 7 Middle Schools, 5 High Schools, 5 Alternative Schools/Programs

ONGOING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR USD 500

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Continue with the inflationary cost-of-living increase approved by the Kansas Supreme Court in 2018.
- Prioritize support and resources for students and their family's physical health, mental health, and safety.
- Fund special education to 92% of excess costs, as the law requires.
- Allocate funds for transportation of students living within a metropolitan area less than 2.5 miles from their attendance center and high-risk students who need a higher level of bus transportation.
- Support career and technical education funding by allowing for the expansion of career pathway programs.
- Prioritize funding for Early Childhood which includes Preschool-Aged At-Risk, Parents as Teachers, and Infant/Toddler Services.
- Provide a more equitable formula for state aid distribution to support bond interest projects. Removal of state-wide caps on bond and interest projects is essential.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

- Support mandatory kindergarten to ensure access to early education and promote long-term development.
- Expand flexibility in the path-to-teacher licensure while retaining appropriate standards set by the State Board of Education.
- Support Medicaid expansion to close the coverage gap for uninsured populations in Kansas.
- Support public and private business partnerships to meet student educational needs regarding college and career readiness.

HIGH QUALITY STAFFING

- Provide additional flexibility to address ongoing staff shortages and management challenges.
- Support rules and incentives designed to treat all public employees equitably when returning to work post-retirement.

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- Support a system that abides by the Kansas Constitutional requirements that locally elected boards of education must operate public schools.
- Maintain the self-executing powers of the State Board of Education while opposing any legislation designed to provide public funding to private schools through tax credits and vouchers.
- Support a system that requires a Commissioner of Education that reports directly to the State Board of Education.