



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

September 22, 2025

Arkansas City High School Graduation Date Set

The Board set ACHS Commencement for Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium, with the large gym as the backup location in case of bad weather

State Assessment Results Show Strong Gains

Assistant Superintendent Braden Smith presented the district's latest state assessment results at Monday's Board of Education meeting. His report showed overall improvement in English language arts and math, with fewer students scoring at the lowest levels and more reaching proficiency. The strongest gains came in grades 3, 4, and 6, where Level 1 scores dropped and Levels 3 and 4 grew steadily. Science scores also improved, with grade 8 posting the highest percentage of top-level scores across all subjects. Smith said the results reflect the dedication of students and staff and will help guide instruction and support going forward.

ACMS Mold Update

The Board received an update on mold testing and prevention efforts at Arkansas City Middle School. The report outlined recent test results, ongoing monitoring, and steps being taken to prevent future issues, including roof repairs after June's hailstorm, maintaining HVAC systems, using dehumidifiers, and improving drainage to control moisture. Additional testing will be conducted this weekend.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Virginia Richerson – 6th Grade Reading at ACMS (*retirement, effective end of*

2025-2026 contract year)

- Tammy Beach Wise – Custodian at ACMS
- Aurora Gonzales-Torres – SAT at Jefferson

Hirings:

- Gary Brewer – Bus Aide
- Brenda Wood – Custodian

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted the following gifts: \$715.03 to offset negative lunch balances from the Salvation Army; \$251.12 for the IXL Self-Esteem Boost program from the Salvation Army; and \$50 in pencils for the middle school from Central Christian Church.
- The Board received a report from Communications Director Alisha Call that highlighted current projects such as the district's bond communication plan, the "Disconnect to Reconnect" phone-free campaign, and expanded staff recognition efforts. Upcoming goals include reducing chronic absenteeism, enhancing digital accessibility, and continuing to strengthen recruitment and retention initiatives
- C-4 Principal Amy Hutto, along with faculty and students, shared how the school is boosting academic achievement. Their special report highlighted enrollment trends, Kansas Assessment results, and the roles parents, buddy classes, and staff play before, during, and after testing to support student success.
- The Board reviewed a plan to add debit cards to existing elementary petty cash accounts to make small purchases easier and more efficient.
- The Board approved closing the Lincoln Elementary petty cash account.
- The Board received an update on district enrollment, which currently sits at 2830. The report included building- and grade-level breakdowns. This year's count will also determine KSHSAA football classifications for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 school years.
- The Board received an update on the district's bond election efforts. With State Board of Education approval secured, USD 470 intensified its work to inform and engage the community ahead of the Nov. 4, 2025, election. This includes community presentations, printed handouts, digital campaigns, and coffee chats focused on transparency, clarity, and two-way dialogue to build trust. Work is also underway to clearly explain each bond proposition and provide election information to the public.
- The Board reviewed the district's lawn care and maintenance schedule. The update outlined mowing rotations for school sites and athletic fields, sprinkler schedules, and ongoing efforts to keep grounds healthy heading into the fall

season.

- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss potential property acquisition.
- No action followed either executive session.