

2025-2026

USD Budget Profile



Lawrence USD 497

Order of Contents

- Budget General Information (characteristics of district)
- Supplemental Information for Tables in *Summary of Expenditures*
- KSDE Website Information Available
- Summary of Expenditures (Sumexpen.xlsx)

2025-2026 Budget – General Information

USD #: 497

Introduction

With a student-centered focus, Lawrence USD 497 has earned a reputation for offering students a high-quality educational experience. As the city's second-largest employer, next to the University of Kansas, Lawrence Public Schools employs approximately 1,500 staff and serves approximately 10,400 students pre-K through grade 12.

The seventh-largest school district in the state, Lawrence USD 497 operates 11 elementary schools, four middle schools, two high schools and a virtual school serving Kansans online. High school students may also enroll in the Lawrence College and Career Center of the College and Career Academy.

The district's continuum of services encompasses educational programming for families of infants through adult learners, include Parent as Teachers, and early childhood educational readiness program, and adult basic education, GED preparation and testing, and diploma completion programs.

Board Members

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Key Staff

Dr Jeanice Swift, Superintendent
Dr Larry Englebrick, Deputy Superintendent
Kristen Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Dr Cole Amaya, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Cynde Frick, Executive Director Finance
Kevin Harrell, Executive Director Student Support Services
Lori Stithem, Executive Director Special Education
Jake Potter, Executive Director Communications

The District's Accomplishments and Challenges

Accomplishments:

Lawrence Public Schools celebrated many accomplishments during the school year, including:

- Emphasizing personalized, project-based learning, and addressing equitable access to technology for students.
- Developing curriculum and identifying priority standards.
- Providing professional learning for culturally relevant teaching, trauma-informed care and restorative justice practices.
- Strengthening our multi-tiered, student-centered support system and merging the plan with KESA goals.
- Continuing facility and technology improvements.

Challenges:

In addition to the ongoing challenge of maximizing limited financial resources to achieve the district's mission, other challenges include:

- Providing a competitive compensation and benefits package for teachers and staff.
- Recruiting, developing and retaining a diverse staff of high quality, effective personnel.
- Responding to educational policy and funding changes at the state and federal levels.
- Obtaining full funding for special education.

Supplemental Information for the Following Tables

1. Summary of Total Expenditures by Function (All Funds)
2. Summary of General Fund Expenditures by Function
3. Summary of Supplemental General Fund Expenditures by Function
4. Summary of General and Supplemental General Fund Expenditures by Function
5. Summary of Special Education Fund by Function
6. Instruction Expenditures (1000)
7. Student Support Expenditures (2100)
8. Instructional Support Expenditures (2200)
9. General Administration Expenditures (2300)
10. School Administration Expenditures (2400)
11. Central Services Expenditures (2500)
12. Operations and Maintenance Expenditures (2600)
13. Transportation Expenditures (2700)
14. Other Support Services Expenditures (2900)
15. Food Service Expenditures (3100)

16. Community Services Operations (3300)
17. Capital Improvements (4000)
18. Debt Services (5100)
19. Miscellaneous Information – Transfers (5200)
20. Miscellaneous Information Unencumbered Cash Balance by Fund
21. Reserve Funds Unencumbered Cash Balance
22. Other Information – Enrollment Information
23. Miscellaneous Information Mill Rates by Fund
24. Other Information – Assessed Valuation and Bonded Indebtedness

Note: FTE is the audited enrollment 9/20 and 2/20 (if applicable) and estimated for the budget year, which includes preschool-aged at-risk and virtual enrollment. Enrollment does not include non-funded preschool. Beginning 2017-2018, full-day Kindergarten is 1.0 FTE. Beginning 2021-2022, three-year-old at-risk students were funded. This information is used for calculating Amount Per Pupil for Sumexpen.xlsx and Budget At A Glance (BAG).

KSDE Website Information Available

K-12 Statistics (Building, District or State Totals) Report Generator:

https://datacentral.ksde.gov/report_gen.aspx

- Attendance / Enrollment Reports
- Staff Reports
- Graduates / Dropouts Reports
- Crime / Violence Reports

School Finance Reports (Data Central) website below:

<https://datacentral.ksde.gov/default.aspx>

- Assessed Valuation
- Cash Balances
- Headcount Enrollment
- Mill Levies
- Personnel (Certified/Non-Certified)
- Salary Reports

Kansas Building Report Card website below:

<http://ksreportcard.ksde.gov/>

- Attendance Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Dropout Rate
- School Violence
- Assessments
 - Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Writing
- Graduates Passing Adv. Science Courses
- Graduates Passing Adv. Math Courses

Accountability Reports website below:

<https://datacentral.ksde.gov/accountability.aspx>

- Performance Accountability Reports
- Financial Accountability Reports
- Longitudinal Achievement Reports