



WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS®

2026

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Wichita Public Schools

The Wichita Public Schools will be the premier district of choice, and inspire each student and staff member to thrive and become future ready within the greater community.

WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alvin E. Morris Administration Center
903 S Edgemoor
Wichita KS 67218

Kelly Bielefeld, Superintendent

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

The Issue

- Special education services are federally and state mandated
- Federal and State funding do not fully cover required costs

WPS Goal

Closer alignment between mandates and state funding

Why it Matters

- Costs are shifted to general funds
- Impacts resources available for all students

In Practice

- Increased pressure on general education budgets
- Staffing challenges for specialized positions
- Reduced flexibility in local budgeting decisions

STRENGTHENING KPERS

Why it Matters

- Key tool for recruiting and retaining educators and staff
- Supports long-term workforce stability
- Reduces turnover-related costs

WPS Goal

Sustain and strengthen KPERS as a workforce tool

Challenges

- Increased vacancies and turnover
- Higher training and onboarding costs

SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA STABILITY

Why it Matters

- Provides predictability for budgeting
- Supports equity across districts
- Recognized as constitutional

WPS Goal

Maintain and fully fund the current school finance formula – small tweaks if any

Challenges

- Reduced academic and support services
- Increased pressure on local property taxes