



# Lawrence Public Schools Enhancements 2026-27

## Board of Education Report

Monday, March 9, 2026



# 2026-2027 Enhancements



- **Education, Equity, and Excellence**
- **Opportunities & Access for students; Closing Disparity Gaps**
- **Emerge from direct Student, Staff, & Community Input**



# Family Engagement Welcome Center

2026-27 Program Enhancements



**Open Family Engagement Welcome Center** at the ESC (110 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS).

**The Welcome Center will:**

- **serve as the front door** to the district
- welcome all new families
- be grounded in dignity, equity, & access
- **remove barriers, simplify processes, & ensure timely, coordinated support**



**\*\*Coming in March**, we will share more information with Board and community about the Family Engagement framework, [dual capacity building for family engagement](#).

# Early Childhood: Preschool Additions

## 2026-27 Program Enhancements



- **Expand preschool offerings to 2 new sites at Deerfield & Prairie Park** in 2026-27.
- Continue preschool classrooms at **Kennedy Early Childhood Center, New York Montessori, Sunflower, & Woodlawn.**



# Expand Preschool Offerings Into Neighborhood Schools

*Vision: a Preschool Seat for Every Child in Lawrence*

- Decades of research demonstrate the **benefits of quality preschool programming for all 3 & 4 year olds**, with particular benefits shown for second language learners & students from economic disadvantage.
- **Expand access by adding preschool classrooms across USD 497 neighborhood schools**; enhancing established quality preschool programming at Kennedy Early Childhood Center.
- In 2025-26, began a phased approach, opening preschool classrooms at **Sunflower & Woodlawn elementary schools**.
- In 2026-27, preschool classrooms will open at **Deerfield & Prairie Park**.
- **NOTE: Students / families must either qualify - under at-risk indicators such as income or other eligibility - or pay tuition (\$690 per month)**



# Expand Preschool Offerings Into Neighborhood Schools



## Research Highlights:

- [Pre-K: Decades Worth Of Studies, One Strong Message](#)
- [A New Look at the Benefits of Quality Preschool Education](#)
- [The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects](#)
- [Universal pre-K: The long-term benefits that exceed short-term costs](#)
- [Study: Preschool gives a big boost to college attendance](#)



# Strengthen Jayhawk Blueprint Partnership



- Partnership between KU & Lawrence Public Schools, enabling students to take college courses in high school.
- Upon successful completion of a Jayhawk Blueprint course, students earn both high school & college credit.
- High schoolers who participate in college courses are more likely to graduate HS, enroll & persist in college, & complete a degree or credential.

# Jayhawk Blueprint Enhancement

## 2026-27 Program Enhancements



- Continue **Jayhawk Blueprint partnership with KU**, offering students opportunity to earn college credit while in high school.
- Continue to provide financial tuition support for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch - through the Lawrence Schools Foundation.
- **In 2026-27, expand Jayhawk Blueprint offerings** to reach more high school students at **Lawrence Virtual School**.



# Strengthen Jayhawk Blueprint Partnership



- **Research Highlights the Importance of College Courses Taken During the High School Years:**

*Taking college coursework in high school, through programs like dual enrollment or early college, is an effective strategy, leading to increased college access, persistence in college & completion rates, as well as potential cost savings & a smoother transition to college.*



# Advanced Placement Enhancement

## 2026-27 Program Enhancements



- **Implement AP Capstone program**  
a phased approach

Introducing:

- **AP Seminar** in 2026-27
- **AP Research** in 2027-28



# CTE: Districtwide Alignment + College & Career Center Enhancement

## 2026-27 Program Enhancements



- Refine & align our Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

### Students will:

- gain greater access to real-world learning experiences
- earn industry credentials & post-secondary assets
- connect to college credit & in-demand careers



# Centennial Choice Campus

2026-27 Program Enhancements



- **Renovate Centennial building** to provide flexible learning, individualized high school experience & support **for students grades 9-12**
- **Project utilizes approved Capital Outlay Funds**, not allowed for school staff salaries & with no tax increase



# Next Steps 2026



## Streamline 2026 - Continuing focus

- **Innovate & align district** to prioritize, direct resources to classrooms, quality educational experiences & opportunities for students
- **Achieve competitive compensation** for staff



# 2026 LPS Enhancements



- **Family Engagement & Welcome Center**
- **Continue expansion Preschool Classrooms Into Neighborhood Schools**
- **Strengthen Jayhawk Blueprint College Course Offerings at High Schools**
- **Enhance Advanced Placement w/Capstone Program**
- **Align and Enhance CTE Pathways**
- **Re-envision College and Career Center & Strengthen Peaslee Partnership**
- **Open Choice at Centennial non-traditional, flexible learning campus**
- **Refine Academy & Centennial student support profiles**
- **Streamline 2026 to Achieve Competitive Compensation**

