



Superintendent of Schools Report to the Board

March 9, 2026

Jessica Kerr Swift

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Elementary School Conference Data:

- **94.14% attendance** for Elementary School Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Remaining strong at **+.47%** from last Spring.



LHS Polar Plunge

100 students & staff from **Lawrence High School** jumped into cold water for the **2026 Polar Plunge**.

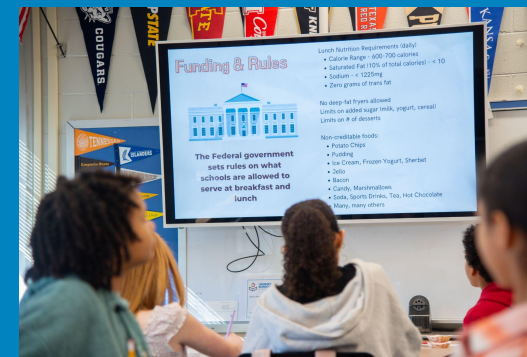
- **Raised over \$17,000** for Special Olympics Kansas & Unified Sports.
- Organized & supported by **Susan Micka's IPS class**.



WMS Reviews School Meals

West Middle School AVID students met with LPS Director of Nutrition & Health Julie Henry to learn about & give their feedback on school meals.

- Reviewed federal school nutrition regulations.
- Tasted & critiqued upcoming additions to the middle school breakfast menu.



Lawrence Robot Police Dog Visits New York

New York Elementary welcomed a special visit from the LKPD & Douglas County Youth Services, including a **robotic police dog named Chase**.



Tour, Connect, & Interview

Lawrence Public Schools hosted **60 prospective teachers & principals** for a day to **tour, connect, & interview**.

- **Tour of various buildings, lunch with LPS leaders, & same-day interviews.**



Winter Sports Wrap-Up



Free State High School & Lawrence High School both had state qualifiers in **2026 Wrestling & Bowling State Meets**.

- **Wrestling (Feb. 27-28):**

Zane Shaw (FSHS) state runner-up
Damian Quick (FSHS) placed 6th
Tristen Moore (FSHS) placed 6th
Jadin Harrell (LHS) placed 4th
Goldy Stephens (LHS) placed 6th

- **Bowling (Mar. 4):**

Leah Wilson (FSHS) placed 6th
Morgan Christensen (LHS) placed 51st
Graesyn Hoss (LHS) placed 9th
Camden Toews (LHS) placed 56th



Community Conversations 2026

Recently hosted conversations across Lawrence for parents, staff, and community members.

- Wrapping-up student focus groups.

 **Join the Conversation!**

Share your feedback online via survey:

www.usd497.org/future



Spring Break 2026

*Wishing everyone in Lawrence
a safe, relaxing Spring Break!*

We look forward to seeing everyone
back at school for 4th quarter on
Monday, March 23!



Important Dates



- **Thursday, Mar. 12**
End of 3rd Quarter
- **Friday, March 13 - March 22**
Spring Break
EC-HS No School & Buildings Closed to Public
- **Preschool Early Enrollment (thru March 22)**
www.usd497.org/preschool
- **Monday, Mar. 23 (6:00 PM)**
Board of Education Meeting @ ESC

