

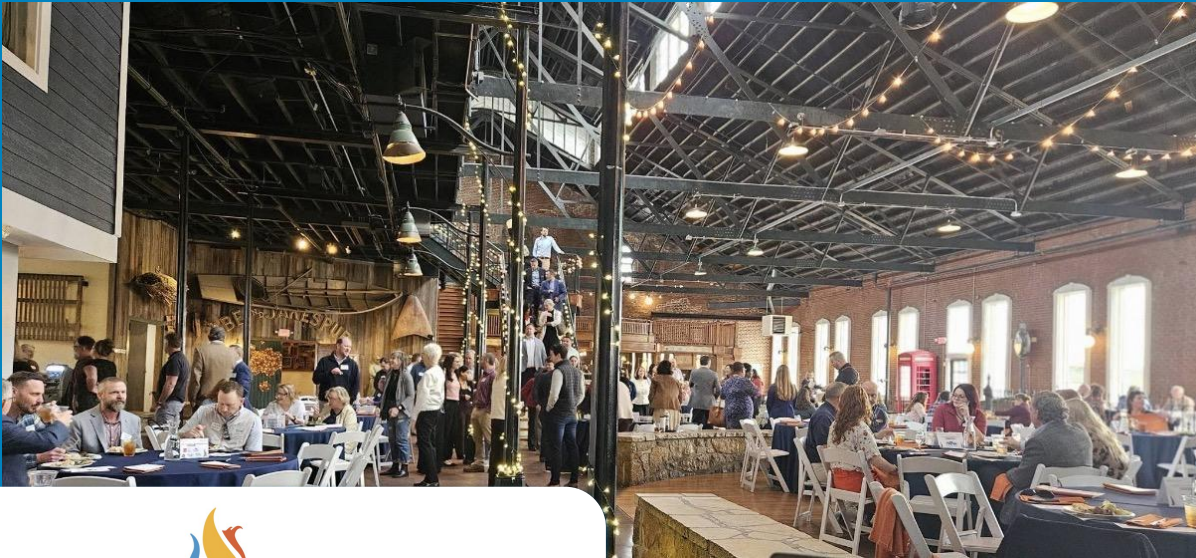


Superintendent of Schools Report to the Board

February 23, 2026

Jernice Kerr Swift

State of the City 2026 Leadership Luncheon



City of Lawrence Priority Updates:

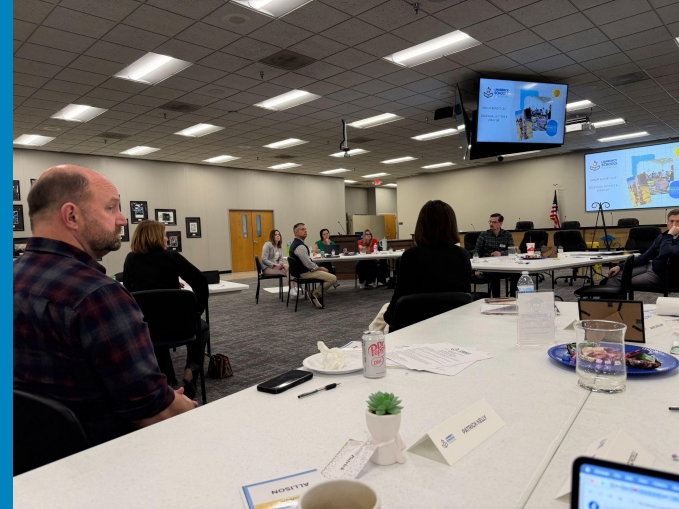
- Affordable housing
- Workforce development
- Economic growth
- Infrastructure priorities.

Lawrence Schools Foundation

Annual Retreat

A **collaborative and strategic** retreat with the LSF Board and district leadership focused on:

- Long-term fundraising alignment
- Student-centered priorities
- Supports for classroom innovation, educator excellence, and district priorities



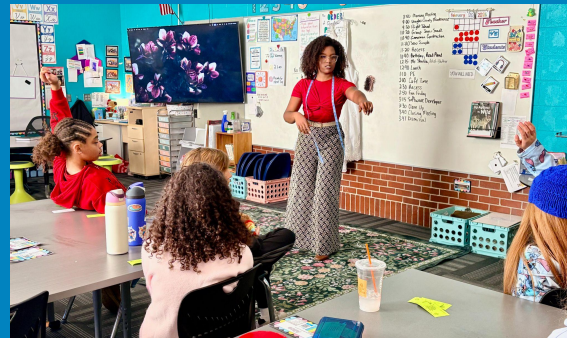
Lawrence Schools Foundation Snack Packs & Backpack Meal Program

- **12+ pallets of snacks** sorted & distributed to all schools.
- **185 backpacks** assembled for grant-funded Backpack Meal Program.
- Educational Support Center staff and community member volunteers.



Hillcrest Career Day

- Aligned with **AVID** college and career readiness framework.
- Joined by community professionals representing **diverse range of careers**.
- Students conducted pre-event career research, **reinforcing learning ownership**.



Student-Led Advocacy

Community Connections & FSHS at the Capitol



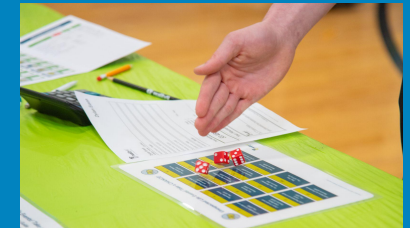
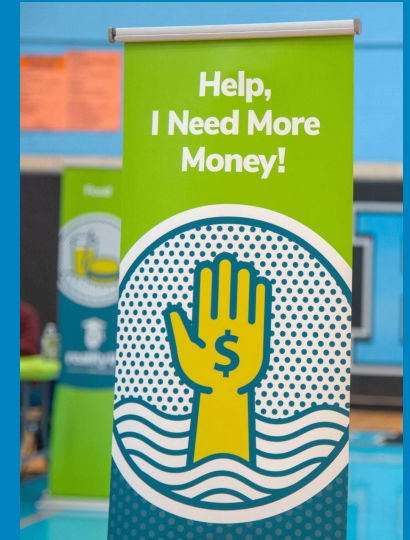
Community Connections at Pinckney students advocate at Advocacy Day for Kansans with disabilities and spoke directly with policymakers.

Free State High School students participated in AP Day at the Kansas State Capitol, meeting with legislators about Advanced Placement programs.



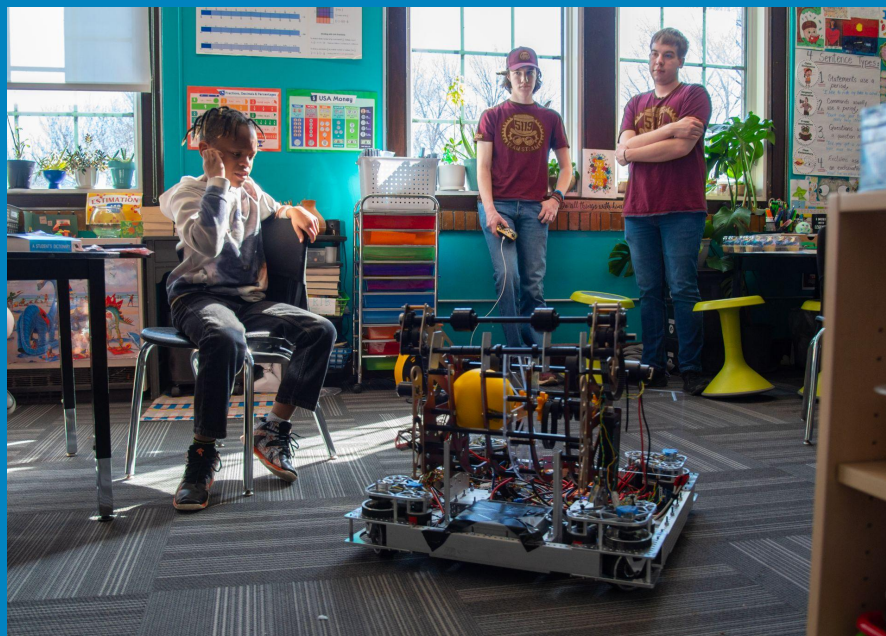
Reality U Visits WMS

- **West Middle School** students simulated adulthood in an activity from **Reality U**.
- Students received identities and jobs, managed various bills and expenses.
- Booths for different expenses were facilitated by Lawrence community members.



Team STEAM Robotics Visit

LPS high school students from Team STEAM Robotics visited **Woodlawn Elementary School**; students test-drove their robots.



LHS Intertribal Club Powwow

- Hosted by **Lawrence High School** Intertribal Club and **Native American Student Services**.
- Celebrated Native culture, heritage, and student leadership and cultural education through dance, music, and storytelling.



Crosstown Showdown

Free State & Lawrence High School Basketball – SOLD OUT!



Truity Credit Union **donated \$15,000** for “Truity Fuel Zone” nutrition stations at both schools.

Winter Sports Postseason underway:

- Basketball sub-state begins next week
- Bowling State: March 4 (Derby, KS)
- Wrestling State: Feb. 27–28 (Overland Park, KS)
- State Basketball: March 10–14 (Wichita State University)

State Swimming Highlights (6A):

- **FSHS:** 12th overall; Anderson Bateman – 3rd & 6th
- **LHS:** 19th overall; Alex Oral – Top 10



Community Conversations 2026

There's still time to share your feedback!

 **Join the Conversation!**

Share your feedback online via survey:

www.usd497.org/future



Tour, Connect, & Interview

Wednesday, February 25th:

Tour | 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

- School bus tour of select schools

Lunch + Connect | 12:30 – 1:30 PM

- Lunch + meet district leaders

Interview | 1:30 – 4:00 PM

- Same-day interviews with principals and district leaders

SEEKING CAREERS?
110 McDonald Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044

LAWRENCE
Public Schools

FEB 25TH

**TOUR
CONNECT
INTERVIEW**

We are looking for passionate:

TEACHERS

PRINCIPALS

- School Bus Tour
- Lunch with District
- Same-Day Interviews

2026 FIFA World Cup

Lawrence to Host Team Algeria

LAWRENCE **2026**

Algerian National Team has selected Lawrence as their base camp community for the 2026 FIFA World Cup!

1,2,3, Vive L'Algerie!

Welcome, Team Algeria!

Lawrence Public Schools Equity / Annual Reports

www.usd497.org/superintendent

The screenshot shows the website for Lawrence Public Schools, specifically the Superintendent page. The header includes the school logo, an 'ENROLL NOW' button, and navigation links for 'CALENDAR', 'CAREERS', and 'SAFETY TIP LINE'. A dark navigation bar contains links for 'About Us', 'Parents & Students', 'School Board', 'Superintendent', and 'Staff'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'HOME > SUPERINTENDENT' and a large 'Superintendent' title. Below the title are four white boxes with icons and text: 'Superintendent Messages' (envelope icon), 'Superintendent Reports' (person at desk icon), 'About the Superintendent' (info icon), and 'Annual Reports' (folder icon). To the right is a dark blue sidebar menu with a '+' icon and links for 'About Dr. Swift', 'Messages from the Superintendent', 'Superintendent Reports', 'Annual Reports', 'History of USD 497 Superintendents', and 'Podcast'. Below these is a section titled 'Latest Message from the Superintendent' with a 'READ ALL MESSAGES >' link. A message card is visible, dated 'January 30, 2026' with the subject 'Superintendent's Message: Wrapping Up January'. An orange underline is present at the bottom of the page content.

Important Dates

- **Monday, Mar. 9 (6:00 PM)**
Board of Education Meeting @ ESC
- **Thursday, Mar. 12**
End of 3rd Quarter
- **Friday, Mar. 13 thru Mar. 22**
NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
- **Preschool Early Enrollment (thru March 22)**
www.usd497.org/preschool

