



Superintendent of Schools Report to the Board

May 11, 2026

Jernice Kerr Swift



TEACHERS
M A K E A N
IMPACT

UNIVERSITY
PRACTICE



TEACHERS MAKE AN IMPACT



Safe Routes to School Survey



- Students participated in Bike & Roll to School Day this past week.
- District is partnering to update the citywide **Safe Routes to School plan**.
- Seeking community feedback to guide future transportation, safety, and accessibility planning.
- **Survey open through May 16!**

Free State DECA Earns International Honors

4 DECA students from **Free State High School** went to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA.

Qualified by placing top 3 in their competitions at state DECA conference:

- Neel Sabarwal, senior
- Grace Mosconi, sophomore
- Ruth Yang, sophomore
- Allen Shao, sophomore



Free State High School Speech & Debate

- 7th Consecutive Kansas 6A State Speech Championship

Top Individual Results
Breahna Randall 1st Place — Oration & Poetry
Dara Adedipe 2nd Place — Oration
Kimora Potter 4th Place — Oration
Lena Hasiuk 2nd Place — US Extemp
Collette Colvin 4th Place — US Extemp

Top Individual Results (cont.)
Landry Koester 3rd Place — Informative & Prose
Carter Fite 3rd Place — International Extemp
Laura Turner 5th Place — Prose
Ben Carter 3rd Place — Lincoln Douglas
Madeline Turner 4th Place — Program Oral Interpretation

Kansas State High School Activities Association: 6A Postseason Highlights

Boys Tennis:

- **Free State** - entire team qualified for state, finished 2nd overall in regionals
- **Lawrence High** - top doubles team qualified for state, tied for 4th overall in regionals



 @FSHS_Tennis



Girls Swimming & Diving:

- 2026 State Meet next Thu. thru Sat. (May 21-23) @ SMSD Aquatic Center



 @LawHS_Athletics



Community Connections Grant

Community Connections at Pinckney received a **\$50,000 grant**, supporting the Community Connections Bakery & new Empowering Brew Coffee Shop.

- Part of **Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant program**
- Funds will be used to purchase necessary bakery and coffee shop equipment



MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026
VOL. 168 • No. 88

LAWRENCE
JOURNAL-WORLD®



READY, SET,
LEARN!

S P R I N G 2 0 2 6

www.usd497.org

Lawrence Journal-World Advertising supplement sponsored by:



LAWRENCE
JOURNAL-WORLD®



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

Read now at

www.usd497.org/newsletters

Annual Student Enrollment

Preview: 2026-27 enrollment window to begin in July.

- Adjustment designed to better build momentum toward a **2026 Back to School campaign**, aligning district processes to ensure the most accurate & up-to-date information for families



Kansas Assessment Program



- **Kansas Assessment Program (KAP)** scores are now available for Lawrence Public Schools
- Families can access student KAP scores online through the **KSDE Kite Parent Portal**
- Schools will also send home hard copies of the reports



Facilities & Operations: Summer 2026 Projects

- Roofing/skylights at **West MS & Billy Mills MS**
- Stained glass window repairs at **Liberty Memorial Central MS**
- Track reconstruction at **Free State & Lawrence High**
- Renovations continuing for **Centennial**
- Recent donations for **Lawrence College & Career Center** garden expansion, memorial bench area at **Woodlawn**



Pictured: Centennial parking lot (left/center) & FSHS track (right)

Class of 2026



Follow along with our celebrations at

www.usd497.org/graduation

- Ceremony dates & times
- FSHS, LHS, & LVS graduation livestreams
- Live graduation moments gallery



Graduation 2026



- **Community Transition (C-Tran) - Friday, May 15** (9 a.m.)
at Community Connections at Pinckney
- **Project SEARCH - Friday, May 15th** (10:30 a.m.)
at Community Connections at Pinckney
- **Lawrence Virtual School - Saturday, May 16th** (1 p.m.)
at Free State High School (Auditorium)
- **Free State High School - Tuesday, May 19th** (7 p.m.)
at Allen Fieldhouse
- **Lawrence High School - Wednesday, May 20th** (7 p.m.)
at LHS Football Stadium
- **Adult Education - Thursday, May 28th** (7 p.m.)
at Lawrence College and Career Center

