

Superintendent of Schools Report to the Board

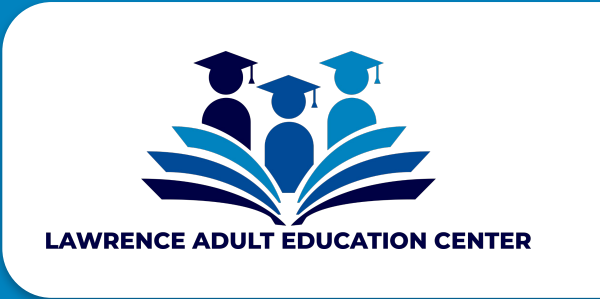
June 8, 2026

Jessica Kerr Swift



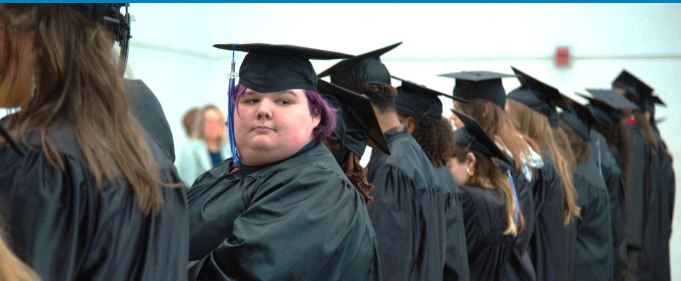
**CHESTY'S
BESTIES**

Adult Education Class of 2026



54 graduates from **Lawrence Adult Education Center**:

- **25 Lawrence Diploma Completion Program (LDCP) graduates** earned their high school diploma:
 - *12 Lawrence High School diplomas*
 - *13 Free State High School diplomas*
- **29 graduates** earned their GED



Spring 2026 Class Act Award



Ashley Vance

Office Manager, Deputy Superintendent

- Vance coordinates complex projects, supports staff, & fosters positive working relationships; ensuring district operations run smoothly & efficiently
- **Class Act Award:** recognizes classified staff who exemplify leadership, teamwork, accountability, positivity, & strong commitment to supporting colleagues & students



Novice Music Camp

- Last week, 160 5th & 6th graders attended **Summer Novice Music Camp** at **Lawrence High School**
- Learned fundamentals of brass, wind, & string instruments from our stellar music faculty

[Read full story >](#)





Novice Music Camp



6A Spring Sports

2025-26 Postseason Results



***Photo by Rick Peterson Jr./KSHSAA*

- **Free State High School** Boys Baseball finished as state champion runner-up
- State Track & Field:
 - **Sadie Reynolds (FSHS)** earned state championship in Girls Discus
 - **Parker Jones (FSHS)** — 2nd, Girls Long Jump
 - **Tyler Dye (LHS)** — 3rd, Boys Javelin
 - **Grace Toner (FSHS)** — 3rd, Girls 800m
- **Henry Thompson & A.J. Kimzey (FSHS)** earned top-20 finishes at State Boys Golf tournament

Lawrence PRIDE Parade



USD 497 Board members participated in 2026 Lawrence PRIDE parade on Saturday, June 5th



Summer 2026 Improvement Projects



*This Fall, students will enjoy new playgrounds installed at **Deerfield & Prairie Park!***

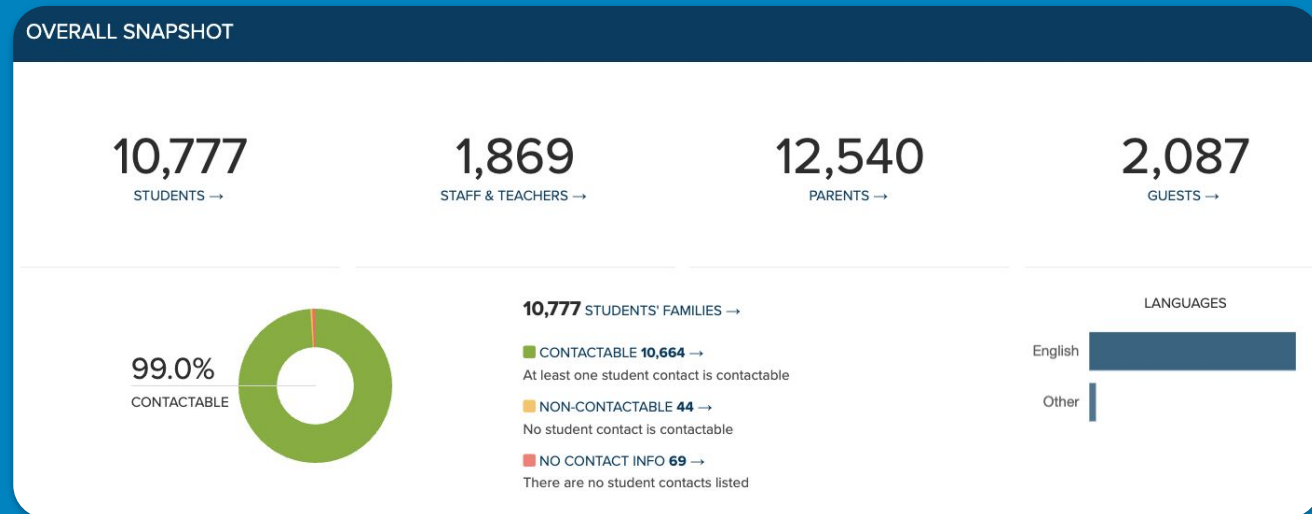
2026 projects include:

- New preschool classrooms at **Deerfield & Prairie Park**
- Reconstruction of **FSHS** press box
- Track resurfacing at **both high schools**
- Theater upgrades at **all middle schools**
- Solar installation at **Woodlawn**
- Continued development of the district's **Family Engagement Center** located at the **Educational Support Center**

ParentSquare: Highlights Usage Data

- 20,700+ Posts (districtwide)
- Approximately 399,000 Direct Messages (districtwide)
→ *across 63,102 Threads*

***Stats current 6/8/2026*



Special Education At-A-Glance

Updated Costs (2024-25 School Year)

\$33.5M

SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS

Special education expenditures in 2024-25

SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES

2024-25 federal, state, & local special education funding and reimbursements

\$19.8M

442

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF

222 certified & 220 classified educators provide special education services.

Transfer from general fund/local option fund for special education unreimbursed expenditures:

\$13.7 million

Strong Start to Summer Meals Program

PUBLIC MEAL SITE

- No registration/ID required
- Meals must be eaten on-site
- Free for ages 1–18; Adults \$5

Sunset Hill Elementary School

Monday–Friday, June 1–July 24*
12:00–2:45 p.m.

***No meals: June 19 or July 3**

WEEKLY SUMMER MEAL KITS

- Registration REQUIRED
- 5 days of breakfasts & lunches to be prepared at home
- Free for ages 1–18; No adult meals

Pick-up: Douglas County Fairgrounds Open Pavilion

Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 a.m.
(June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & July 7, 14, 21)

Register for meal kits (required):
www.usd497.org/SMKR2026

