



**Board of Education
Superintendent Report
Monday, June 22, 2026**

Hello Members of the Board and Lawrence Public Schools Community,

As we have officially begun summer, celebrating the first day of summer and summer solstice yesterday, our teams remain focused on the important work of preparing for the 2026-27 school year.

I am pleased to share the following highlights from across Lawrence Public Schools

Lawrence Juneteenth Parade

Over the holiday weekend, [Lawrence Public Schools proudly joined the Lawrence community in the Juneteenth parade!](#)

It was an honor to represent our schools and celebrate the Juneteenth National Independence Day alongside friends, families, and peers from all across Lawrence in commemorating freedom, resilience, a spirit of overcoming, and the rich history of the African American community. Thank you to Member Franklin and to everyone who organized and celebrated with us.

Free State Students Advance at National Speech & Debate Tournament

We are proud to recognize several **Free State High School** students for outstanding performances at the [2026 National Speech & Debate Association National Tournament](#), one of the nation's most prestigious academic competitions.

Lena Hasiuk and **Carter Fite** advanced to elimination rounds in Policy Debate, placing 42nd in the country among 200 competing teams at Nationals. **Breahna Randall** also advanced to the Octofinal round in Poetry, finishing in 114th out of 400 entries.

We congratulate Lena, Carter, and Breahna on representing Lawrence Public Schools with excellence on the national stage. We also extend our appreciation to **Director of Speech & Debate Parker Hopkins** and **Assistant Director Michael Shelton** for their leadership, mentorship, and commitment to supporting students as they pursue opportunities at the highest levels of speech and debate competition.

Chuck Law Named the 2nd-Ever Julie Boyle Heart & Spirit Award Recipient

[The Lawrence Schools Foundation recently honored longtime Free State High School educator and coach Chuck Law as the second recipient of the Julie Boyle Heart & Spirit Award.](#)

Established in honor of former Lawrence Public Schools communications director Julie Boyle, the award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to students, schools, and the Lawrence community. Coach Law's 26 years of service at Free State High School have left a lasting impact on generations of students, colleagues, and families.

We congratulate Chuck on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his remarkable contributions to Lawrence Public Schools throughout his distinguished career.

Additional Details: This day of recognition and award was established one year ago by the Foundation, the Julie Boyle Heart & Spirit Award was created in honor of the district's former communications director, who served in Lawrence Public Schools for over 27 years. The award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the same big heart, unwavering dedication, and passionate commitment to children, schools, and the broader community that Julie demonstrated throughout her career.

Chuck Law has been a teacher and coach at Lawrence Free State High School for the past 26 years. His love for education and unwavering support for each student earned him the district's recognition as Lawrence Master Teacher for the 2008-09 school year. Of course, the iconic Julie Boyle herself was there to help present the award and personally congratulate the winner on this much-deserved honor.

Welcome Algerian National Team

[You likely noticed our welcome banners atop the iconic yellow school bus out front greeting our Algerian guests in town.](#) Lawrence continues to enjoy a unique opportunity to welcome the Algerian National Team as they make our community their home away from home during the FIFA World Cup. We have received a steady stream of enthusiastic visitors stopping and taking photos in front of the bus, an iconic school symbol.

The excitement surrounding Team Algeria's arrival has been felt throughout the community. Online, photos and videos highlighting the team's presence in Lawrence have generated significant engagement, helping showcase our community's hospitality to audiences around the world.

We are proud that Lawrence Public Schools students, staff, and families have played a role in extending a warm welcome to our international guests.

Preparing for the 2026-27 School Year - New Educator Orientation

While students enjoy summer break, district teams continue preparing for another successful school year across Lawrence Public Schools.

Recently, the Human Resources Department hosted a New Educator Orientation, welcoming

teachers and staff who will be joining our schools for the 2026-27 school year. These educators bring a wide range of experiences, talents, and perspectives that will strengthen learning opportunities for students across the district.

I would like to share a brief video clip featuring one of our newest educators and their reasons for choosing Lawrence Public Schools.

Lawrence Leads

As a preview of coming attractions, 2026-27 and as part of ongoing post-secondary readiness and strategic planning work, we are excited to introduce a new tag line, **Lawrence LEADS**.

The Lawrence LEADS identity reflects growth, opportunity, and the power of education to transform lives. Its three ascending elements symbolize students progressing through their educational journey while representing achievement, connection, and elevation.

The design intentionally invites multiple interpretations. Some may see flames, leaves, or feathers, each representing inspiration, knowledge, growth, and the spark of learning that has long been part of the Lawrence community. Together, these elements reflect the many pathways students can pursue as they prepare for life beyond graduation.

Lawrence LEADS emerged through a thoughtful process that emphasized themes such as **achieving, connecting, and elevating**, and represents our commitment to ensuring every student graduates prepared to lead and succeed in their chosen future.

Additional Details: The logo's input process prioritized words, such as **achieve, connect, and elevate** over aspire, adaptability, courage, educate, etc., and phrasing that considered Lawrence Advantage, Lawrence Roadmap, and Lawrence Promise. Lawrence Leads became the descriptor of choice for the culmination of an educational experience within Lawrence Public Schools.

Save the Date:

July 8th - Annual Open Enrollment Opens

As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2026-27 school year, [Annual Student Enrollment will open for all Lawrence Public Schools families on July 8.](#)

This year marks an important transition as the district moves annual enrollment from the spring to the summer months. The change allows families to provide the most current contact, health, and emergency information prior to the start of school while helping our schools prepare class schedules, staffing, transportation, and student supports with the most accurate information possible.

Annual enrollment is required for all returning and new students and serves as the district's official back-to-school registration process. In the coming weeks, families will receive additional details, enrollment instructions, and important reminders directly through ParentSquare, email,

social media, the district website, and other district communication channels.

We appreciate the partnership of our families and look forward to working together to ensure every student is ready for a successful start to the new school year.

August 8th - Annual Kids Expo

The Lawrence Schools Foundation will host its [3rd Annual Kids Expo](#) on **Saturday, August 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lawrence Public Schools Educational Support Center.**

This free community event brings together local organizations, businesses, and service providers to support students and families as they prepare for the new school year. Attendees will have access to health screenings, educational resources, free shoes, haircuts, school supplies, food, entertainment, prize drawings, and other family-friendly activities.

Last year, more than 2,000 students and family members attended the event. With special appearances planned by KU Athletics and an expanded lineup of community partners, organizers anticipate this year's Kids Expo will be the largest yet.

In addition, we are excited to debut the new Family Engagement Center opening also planned for August 8th.

We are grateful to the Lawrence Schools Foundation and the many community partners whose generosity helps ensure students and families begin the school year ready to learn and thrive.

Recognitions of Service

Before concluding my report this evening, I would like to recognize two individuals whose leadership has had a lasting impact on Lawrence Public Schools.

Jake Potter, Executive Director of Communications

Tonight marks Jake Potter's final Board of Education meeting as Executive Director of Communications. Mr. Potter has done tremendous work leading communications and is leaving behind a strong foundation.

Under his leadership over the past year, he helped lead communications efforts surrounding major district initiatives and events, including Community Conversations 2026, MLK One Dream, the Let's Lift Lawrence campaign, preschool outreach efforts, strategic planning engagement, and the continued expansion of our digital and social media presence.

His leadership has helped ensure our community remains informed, connected, and engaged while also building the systems that will continue to serve Lawrence Public Schools for years to come. His commitment to supporting students, families, staff, and the Lawrence community has been evident in everything he has done. Jake, if our goal at work is to leave things better than we found them, you have definitely achieved that goal, despite your brief tenure; we are better

for your time with us in Lawrence Public Schools. You have earned the respect of your colleagues and this community, and we wish you all the best in your next chapter.

Kevin Harrell, Executive Director of Student Support Services

I would also like to recognize Kevin Harrell as he concludes his service to Lawrence Public Schools and begins his retirement. Throughout nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the district, Mr. Harrell has been a dedicated advocate for students and families, helping lead critical student support programs to ensure every student has access to the resources, accommodations, and opportunities needed to succeed.

His leadership has touched countless lives through his work supporting special education, student services, enrollment, student and family engagement, and other programs that help students thrive both inside and outside the classroom. His steady leadership, commitment to equity and inclusion, his wisdom and unwavering focus on students and families have helped strengthen our district and leave a lasting impact on the Lawrence community.

On behalf of the Board of Education, district leadership, staff, students, and families, thank you, Mr. Potter and Mr. Harrell, for your service to Lawrence Public Schools. We wish you continued success and happiness in your next chapters.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this Superintendent Report, and for the honor of serving the Lawrence Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Jeanice Kerr Swift
Superintendent of Schools
Lawrence Public Schools