Turner School District Legislative Platform

2026 - 2027

MISSION

EDUCATE minds
EMPOWER lives
IMPACT Turner

VISION

USD 202 envisions a united, supportive, and innovative community that inspires growth, empowers leadership, upholds high standards, and prepares students to reach their full potential.

BELIEFS

Turner students come first
Understand, accept, and appreciate diversity
Recognize and celebrate achievement
Nurture a safe and caring environment
Embrace change with persistence
Require high expectations for all

SPOTLIGHT ISSUES FOR THE 2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, licensure, instructional technology, and student personal devices.
- We support management of public schools under locally-elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management, and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- We support suitable finance provided by the Kansas Legislature, including renewal of the constitutionally suitable school funding formula (with minor adjustment) and inflationary increases approved by the Legislature, the Governor, and the Kansas Supreme Court.
- We support preservation of student weightings for “at-risk” and “high-density at-risk”.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- We support improving teacher recruitment and retention through local control of classroom content, respect for the teaching profession, and increased funding for salaries, including the inflationary adjustments approved by the legislature and state Supreme Court.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT USD 202

- USD 202 serves approximately 3,800 students
- USD 202 is 77% free/reduced lunch
- The district demographics are as follows: 53% Hispanic, 24% White, 13% African American, 10% Other
- USD 202 has approximately 650 district employees
- Four elementaries, one sixth grade building, one middle school, one traditional high school, one alternative high school

ONGOING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR USD 202

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Funding for early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers, infant/toddler special education, and pre-kindergarten.
- Study state transportation aid to include students living less than 2.5 miles from their assigned school, including but not limited to funding to transport students who live in hazardous areas.
- We oppose programs including but not limited to vouchers, education savings accounts, and tuition tax credits because such programs divert public funding from public education to schools which are not required to serve all students, including those who are disadvantaged, disabled, or those with the greatest need.
- The state legislature must meet its statutory obligation to reimburse special education service costs at the mandatory rate of 92 percent of excess costs to ensure student success.
- Continued allocation of Safe and Secure Schools grant state aid.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- To recruit and retain high quality staff:
  - Provide increased funding that keeps pace with rising operational costs in order to enable public schools to offer competitive wages.
  - Reduce or end the KPERS “working after retirement” penalty and maintain or improve retirement benefits for public school employees.
  - Analyze movement of school personnel from KPERS Tier 3 to Tier 2.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

- Allowing for accountability measures to match school funding schedules.
- Fully funding legislative mandates.
- Utilizing consistent and stable indicators of need for determining how to allocate at-risk dollars to public schools.

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- A system that abides by the KS Constitutional requirement that public schools be operated by locally elected boards of education.
- We oppose the practice of “bundling” K-12 appropriations with unrelated policies, especially proposals that have not received a committee hearing. This includes budget provisos that function as single-course contracts for education-related services.