



2019-2020 Legislative Positions

Five Shawnee County Public School Districts

ONE UNITED VOICE

Shawnee County School District

The 28,166 students of Shawnee County, Kansas, are served by five public school districts. Leadership from all five Shawnee County public school districts worked collaboratively to create our 2019-20 Shawnee County Legislative Positions. Our legislative positions were mutually created with the belief that Shawnee County students are our top priority. Significant societal benefits are gained by supporting exemplary public education, and all Kansas students deserve an adequate and equitable public education.

Shawnee County Combined Facts

Student enrollment:	28,166	Economic Impact on Shawnee County Economy:
Square miles served:	483	Total FTE Staff:
Facilities:		4,849
		Total Payroll:
Elementary Schools	32	\$272,831,891.42
Middle Schools	10	
High Schools	7	
Alternative Programs	7	

Approved by each Board of Education

Auburn - Washburn School District #437
 Seaman School District #345
 Shawnee Heights School District #450
 Silver Lake School District #372
 Topeka Public Schools #501

Tom Bruno
 Fred Patton
 Eric Deitcher
 Randy Matzke
 Dr. Michael Morrison





ONE UNITED VOICE

New state aid for the 2019-20 school year has impacted learning in Shawnee County schools in a variety of ways. Examples of how the funds were used include:

- Increased teacher salaries across Shawnee County to attract and retain highly qualified educators.
- Extended at-risk student programs including summer school and after school programs.
- Expanded preschool opportunities across Shawnee County.
- Expanded AVID programs for first generation college bound students.
- Increased social-emotional services delivered to students on site by counselors, psychologists and social workers.
- Extended career pathways, JAG-KS, internships, and other vocational-technical opportunities to assist career readiness.

Standards and Accountability

- We support implementation and assessment of standards adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education.
- We support the State Board of Education's Mission to be the first in the world in education.
- We support the State Board of Education's measure of post-secondary success.
- We oppose the use of public dollars and tax credits to fund private schools.
- Any school that receives public funds must meet state and federal accountability standards and provide programs and services required of public schools.

School Funding

We support funding that is timely, adequate, equitable, and sustainable. School funding should:

- Address the needs of at-risk populations and extend high density at-risk weighting.
- Account for changing student needs, higher expectations, and increasing costs, including the significant statistical relationship between socio-economic status and students found to be at-risk of academic failure.
- Fully fund early childhood education.
- Fully fund special education.
- Fully fund professional development.
- Fully fund CTE credential reimbursement.

Teacher Recruitment

We support:

- Local boards of education hiring the most qualified candidate.
- Alternative methods for obtaining professional licensure and increasing reciprocity with other states.
- Establishing statewide financial incentives to encourage teachers to both enter and stay in the profession.
- Restoring dignity to the teaching profession by investing in mentorship and professional development.

School Efficiency

- We oppose any manipulation of school funding based on any artificial requirement or accounting guide's misrepresentation of spending in the classroom.
- We support local board of education control over school budgeting and purchasing.

KPERS

- We support long-term, sustained commitment towards the funding of KPERS.

School Safety

- We support local, not state, control of school safety and security measures.
- We support increased funding for social-emotional programs and supports for students.
- We support increased funding for school safety and security improvement.
- Support state board of education autonomy to set policies on bullying.