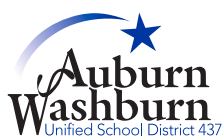


2017-18 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

Five Shawnee County Public School Districts

ONE UNITED VOICE



Shawnee County School Districts

The 27,387 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 2017-18 Shawnee County Legislative Positions. Our Legislative Positions were mutually created with the belief that Shawnee County students are our top priority, there are significant societal benefits gained by supporting exemplary public education, and all Kansas students deserve an adequate and equitable public education.

Shawnee County Combined Facts

Student enrollment:	27,387	Economic Impact on Shawnee County Economy:	
Square miles served:	483	• Total FTE Staff	4591
Facilities:		• Total Payroll	\$187,900,000
• Elementary Schools	32		
• Middle Schools	10		
• High Schools	7		
• Alternative Programs	7		

New state aid for the 2017-18 school year has impacted learning in Shawnee County schools in a variety of ways. *Examples of the how the funds were used include:*

- A focus on at-risk students including summer school and after school programs
- An increase in preschool classrooms across Shawnee County
- Expansion of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs
- An increase in salaries of teachers across Shawnee County to attract and retain highly qualified educators
- An expansion for trauma informed care and social-emotional practices through training and behavior intervention
- Fully funded all-day kindergarten



2017-18 Shawnee County School Districts Legislative Positions

Standards and Accountability

- We support implementation and assessment of standards adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education.
- We must raise education standards to help produce successful students who are prepared for life, citizenship, careers, and able to compete in a global economy.
- 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/ services required of public schools.

School Funding

- ***We support funding that is timely, adequate, equitable, and sustainable. School funding should:***
 - Support the implementation and assessment of standards and the accreditation process adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education.
 - A formula must account for changing student needs, higher expectations, and increasing costs. Give the significant statistical relationship between socio-economic status and students to be found to be at-risk of academic failure, reliable measures of poverty, such as free-lunch status, must be an indicator for allocating funds intended to address the needs of at-risk students.
 - Fully fund early childhood education.
 - Fully fund special education.
 - Consider high and low enrollment.
 - Provide equalization aid for Capital Outlay.
 - Continue Local Option Budget.
 - Fund Bond and Interest at the full percentage required by law.

Teacher Recruitment

We support:

- Local Boards of Education hiring the most qualified candidate, and if necessary, to pay any actuarial costs established by KPERS if a KPERS retiree is 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.

School Efficiency

- Local, not state, control of districts' health insurance.
- Local, not state, control of districts' purchasing programs.

KPERS

- Long-term, sustained commitment towards the funding of KPERS.
- Equitable provisions for all public employees when working after retirement.

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

Trisha Brooke-Fruendt
Fred Patton
Joel Manzanares
Randy Matzke
Dr. Michael Morrison

