



## 2018-19 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

*Five Shawnee County Public School Districts*

# ONE UNITED VOICE

As the State of Kansas has experienced surplus revenue and has funding available, elected officials should take advantage of the opportunity to fully fund public schools to meet the court's directive.

## Shawnee County School Districts

The 28,132 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 2018-19 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:	28,132	Economic Impact on Shawnee County Economy:	
Square miles served:	483	Total FTE Staff	4,477
Facilities:		Total Payroll	\$211,678,000
Elementary Schools	32		
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  
 Frank Henderson  
 Eric Deitcher  
 Randy Matzke  
 Dr. Michael Morrison

## New state aid for the 2018-19 school year has impacted learning in Shawnee County schools in a variety of ways. Examples of the how the funds were used include:

- An increase in teacher salaries across Shawnee County to attract and retain highly qualified educators
- A focus on at-risk student programs including summer school and after school programs
- Expanded preschool opportunities across Shawnee County
- Expansion of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) programs
- Expanded social-emotional services delivered to students on site by counselors, psychologists and social workers
- Expanded 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 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:

- Support the implementation and assessment of standards and the accreditation process adopted by the Kansas State Board of Education.
- Account for changing student needs, higher expectations, and increasing costs. Given the significant statistical relationship between socio-economic status and students 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.
- Fully fund professional development.



## 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 artificial requirement to manipulate school funding based on an accounting guide's misrepresentation of spending in the classroom.
- We support Local, not state, control of districts' health insurance.
- We support Local, not state, control of districts' purchasing programs.

## 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.

