

LINC Commission Meeting

March 18, 2019



Students and a LINC staff member from Johnson Elementary in the Hickman Mills School District presented their Black History Month project on the Harlem Globetrotters. They dressed as the players and created a report on the impact and history of the group. Photo: Augustus Zuo, LINC Site Coordinator.



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, March 18, 2019 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. **Approval January 2019 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports
- IV. Annual Performance Review
 - a. Kansas City Public Schools
 - b. Other Districts
- V. Hickman Mills District Developments
 - a. School Decision – School Closures
 - b. Impact on LINC Caring Communities
- VI. 21st Century Communities Learning Centers
- VII. Report Out
 - a. Breakfast in School
 - b. LINC Girls Chess Tournament
 - c. Election Issues
- VIII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – JAN. 28, 2019

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Bailus Tate** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty

Herb Freeman
Anita Gorman
Dick Hibschan
Rosemary Lowe
Ken Powell
David Ross

Tate introduced new LINC Chief Financial Officer **Ron Dempsey**.

Tate recognized **Rosemary Lowe**, who was honored with the Fuzzy Thompson Legacy Award at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Minutes of the Nov. 19, 2018, LINC Commission meeting were approved.

The slideshow LINC in Photos 2018 was shown.

John Tramel, Drumm Farm Center for Children, and **Rita Carr**, reStart, reported on the Point in Time Count, the annual requirement of agencies supported by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to provide demographic data on their service population during a 24-hour period. Drumm Farm, reStart, and other organizations are working with area school districts to ensure homeless youth are included in the count, on Jan. 30.

Superintendent Reports

- **Christina Medina**, Director of Public Relations (Center School District), reported the district last week issued a call to action for community support of about 50 unaccompanied youth and 150 at risk of becoming homeless. The board of education passed a measure to place a \$48 million no tax-increase bond on the ballot. This year's district initiatives include providing students free breakfast, bus fare, and home internet access.
- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Hickman Mills School District), thanked LINC for nominating her for the Superintendent of the Year award from the Missouri Afterschool Network. A video of the nominating event was shown. This Wednesday the district will hold 100% Attendance Day, and recently the district hosted attendance workshops to engage parents around the issue. The district will begin work around its five-year strategic plan. The district is working to align facilities with enrollment in order to meet the need to reduce its budget by 15%.
- **Christy Harrison**, Director of Extended Learning (Kansas City Public Schools), reported the district is preparing for summer school. The district is holding "Justice in the Schools" at Central High School today in partnership with Legal Aid and the Health Department – an effort to connect families to services related to housing and to reduce the student mobility rate. All of the school board seats will be up for election this spring.
- **Terry Ward**, Board Member (North Kansas City Schools), reported on several teachers, administrators, and students who received recognition. The district is partnering with Sprint to provide wifi access at student homes. The district is planning to build new facilities to meet student growth.

- **Kevin Foster**, Executive Director (Genesis School), reported the school will be going through the accreditation process this week. Genesis will host FAST for the first time, on Feb. 7, in conjunction with literacy partners Let's Read and Literacy KC. Genesis will host the annual Family Summit on Feb. 13-14; this year's focuses on home ownership. Genesis and other charter schools are working on a common application.
- **Gayden Carruth**, Executive Director (Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City), reported there is a large number of new lawmakers in this year's Mo. General Assembly. School districts are concerned about the budgetary effects of revenue uncertainty due to errors in the withholding table and state and federal income tax changes. CSD is seeking a new Executive Director.
- **Bob Bartman**, Director (Education Policy Fellowship Program), reported the federal government shutdown prevented the EPFP fellows from attending this month's scheduled session at the Truman Decision Center; instead, they attended a presentation by Tyson Elbert on Red State, Blue State. Next month's session is on demography, and March will be the Washington Policy Seminar.
- **Steve Morgan**, Asst. Superintendent (Fort Osage School District), reported the district held a ribbon-cutting on Jan. 2 for the opening of the new Woodland Early Childhood Center. The 20,000 square foot building includes a multipurpose room, library, and therapy room. The district is planning to redevelop the old early childhood center as a library and food pantry through a partnership with the Mid Continent Public Library and Community Services League. A video produced by LINC on the Woodland center was shown.

LINC Deputy Director **Brent Schondelmeyer** reported on the potential impact of a government shutdown on persons receiving assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps). In November 2018, 95,000 Jackson County individuals received \$11.7 million in benefits. The Bootheel region of Missouri had the highest per-capita usage of food stamps, with about 1/3 of residents receiving assistance.

Caring Communities Program Specialist **Carl Wade** introduced Ingels Elementary principal **Dr. Sabrina Tillman Winfrey**, who reported on today's Dominic's Day in remembrance of the Ingels student who was shot and killed a year ago.

Schondelmeyer reported the following:

- This year's Black History Month posters honoring accomplished African Americans from the Kansas City area are now available.
- LINC Chess will hold a Girls Chess Tournament on Feb. 9 at Blue Hills Elementary in the Fort Osage School district.
- The Apricot data system, developed by Social Solutions, is an essential tool for LINC. LINC and Social Solutions have worked closely to develop Apricot to meet a variety of needs. Schondelmeyer introduced **Yell McGuyer** and **Josh Coffee** of Social Solutions, who spoke on Social Solutions' mission to support the educational and social services spheres and the challenges of serving organizations which face the same problems, but whose definitions and systems vary from place to place.

The meeting was adjourned.

Hickman Mills Will Close Two Schools and Move Some Grades to New Locations

By [BARBARA SHELLY](#) • MAR 7, 2019

Students and families in the Hickman Mills School District will need to cope with major changes next year after the Board of Education decided to close two elementary schools and reconfigure grade levels in most of its buildings.

By a count of 6 to 1, board members on Thursday night voted to close Symington and Johnson elementary schools.

Superintendent Yolanda Cargile had recommended shuttering three of the district's eight operating elementary buildings. A consultant had presented options that included closing five schools.

An audience of about 100 teachers, parents and community members was mostly silent after the vote, although some people hugged and cried. A handful of citizens, including Kansas City Council member Kevin McManus, who represents the district, had urged the board at the start of the meeting not to close multiple schools.

Even with the less drastic option, boundary changes and grade reconfigurations will affect many of the district's families.

Starting with the 2019-20 school year, Hickman Mills will no longer set aside two of its elementary buildings for popular project-based curriculums emphasizing math and science for selected students. Kindergarten students will move from two early childhood centers into elementary schools.

Sixth graders, who now attend elementary schools, will move to Smith-Hale Middle School. The district also will shut down a special freshman center for 9th graders. They will attend Ruskin High School.

Cargile said the board has been looking at ways to cut expenses for about two years, as enrollment and reserve funds both continued to dip. The problem was accelerated last fall



Patrons share an emotional moment after the Hickman Mills Board of Education voted to close two elementary schools and make other cost-saving moves.

BARBARA SHELLY / KCUR 89.3

because of a mix-up involving Cerner Corp., the district's largest property owner. Because of a tax-increment financing plan, the school district will receive only minimal payments from the massive Cerner complex within its boundaries for the next two decades. But an appeal by Cerner to the Missouri State Tax Commission reduced the amount by \$2.4 million less than the district had anticipated.

"This plan is about meeting a board goal to be fiscally responsible," Cargile said.

A consulting group told the district that all but two of its elementary buildings were underused, and most were in poor condition. Based on a demographic study, planners expect enrollment to dip from 5,770 students today to fewer than 4,500 students in 2027.

But district patrons, as well as business owners and elected officials, have lobbied school board members to reject predictions of continued decline.

"We oppose closing multiple schools for the terrible message it sends about our community, that we don't believe in ourselves," former school board member and Kansas City Council member John Sharp told the board.

Said McManus: "People want to live in south Kansas City. They want to raise their families here."

But Luther Chandler, the board's vice president, noted that teacher salaries in the district are lower than 10 neighboring school districts. Hickman Mills was forced to borrow money at the end of last year to pay its bills, he pointed out, while arguing for the cost-saving cuts.

The only board member to vote against the school closings was Carol Graves, a former teacher in the district. Graves mentioned an encouraging rise in test scores for the provisionally accredited district, and said she thought the area was ripe for development.

"We have some opportunities coming to south Kansas City that we haven't had in some time," she said.

Cargile said the district will attempt to make the changes as painless as possible for the staff and community. That includes trying to find positions for teachers and staffers who are displaced by the changes, either elsewhere in Hickman Mills or in other districts.

Barbara Shelly is a freelance contributor for KCUR 89.3. You can reach her at bshellykc@gmail.com.



TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Yolanda Cargile Ed.D, Superintendent
Dan Weakley, Executive Director of Operations

RE: HMC-1 Shaping our Future

DATE: March 7, 2019

Issue:

The Board of Education has set forth the goal of a 15% fund balance for 2019-20 school year. To reach this goal district efficiency and effectiveness in all areas of the district were examined.

Background Information:

In the work of “HMC-1 Shaping our Future” the Executive Leadership Team worked toward obtaining solutions and developing processes to make the best decision possible for the short and long term. In doing so, we reached out to several area districts and found MGT Consulting to be a reliable and frequently used source for school districts across the country and in our own state (KCMO Public School & Ferguson Florissant). At the January 17, 2019, Board Meeting, the Board approved a contract with MGT Consulting Group to address operational efficiency concerns within the district. The intent of MGT’s work was to provide the Hickman Mills C-1 School District with a restructuring recommendation that first maintains or improves educational programming and additionally assists the district in reaching its 15 percent fund balance goal. MGT completed the following deliverables as a part of this effort:

- Determination of school capacity and utilization using a program-based model
- Incorporation of district-provided demographic projections
- Incorporation of district-provided assessments of the eight elementary schools to be included in the analysis
- GIS services including feeder pattern analysis, boundaries, and redistricting
- Restructuring analysis, including facility condition and suitability, efficiency of facility utilization, possible grade level re-alignment, and district priorities
- Recommendations to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness
- Assistance with the Community Engagement process
- Final Restructuring Recommendation

To complete the restructuring study and develop recommendations, the MGT team analyzed both quantitative and qualitative data. The district provided quantitative data which included facility

assessments, enrollment projections, and capacity and demographic information. In addition to reviewing this data, the MGT team toured each school (occupied and vacant), Buildings and Grounds building and the previous administrative building in the district.

Qualitative data was gathered from conversations with district officials, school board members, and the community. Both forms of data were critical to determine options to increase operational efficiency across the district. It is important to note that throughout the project, all activities focused on meeting the educational needs of students.

Additional Information:

MGT presented at two community public meetings, January 30, 2019 and February 12, 2019. During the first community meeting, MGT provided information on their methodology and an update of the milestones that had been completed at that time. During the second community meeting, MGT provided an update of the milestones completed, a review of the data collected through the site tours, and one possible option for restructuring Hickman Mills School District. At both meetings, community concerns and restructuring possibilities were gathered. All community feedback was considered during the development of the restructuring options.

Based on the quantitative and qualitative data accumulated by the MGT team several options were created to increase operational efficiencies throughout the district. The scenarios were based on:

- Educational programs
- Best use of existing facilities
- Addressing the capacity needs
- Assisting the school district in reaching its goal of a 15 percent fund balance

MGT staff presented the school board with a final recommendation on February 21, 2019. This final report summarizes the data collected and the options considered to increase operational efficiency. In the summary MGT gave three options. The following outlines the three options. The third option is the recommended option.

Option 1

1 High School, 1 Middle School, 5 Elementary Schools, 2 Pre-K & 1 Alternative Site

- Four schools will be repurposed (Dobbs, Johnson, Symington, Truman).
- All remaining elementary schools (Compass, Ingels, Santa Fe, Warford) will house a K-5 grade configuration and serve as neighborhood schools.
- The current Smith-Hale Middle School and Hickman Mills 9th Grade Center will become a 6-8 grade middle school housing all students in the district at those grade levels.
- Ninth grade students will be housed at Ruskin High School which will house all 9-12 grade students in the District.
- Freda Markley will continue as a pre-school facility housing most of the students from that grade level.

- Ervin will become a PK-5 grade configuration and serve as the fifth neighborhood school.

This model is recommended based upon the following factors:

- Utilizing facilities that reflect the best overall condition.
- Increasing facility utilization to acceptable levels while maintaining best practices regarding school size.
- Reflecting a reasonable geographical distribution across the District.
- Resulting in significant cost savings.

Considerations for adopting this model included:

- This option results in district-wide utilization of 65 percent. However, excess capacity at Smith-Hale Middle School (6-8) heavily impacts district-wide utilization. Utilization levels at all other school sites increased and would be greater than 75 percent placing them in the “approaching inefficient use of space” range instead of the “inefficient use of space” range.
- Opportunities remain to further increase operational efficiency by consolidating an additional elementary school. With an additional elementary school consolidation, all elementary schools would be in the “adequate use of space” utilization range.

Option 2

1 High School, 1 Middle School, 4 Elementary Schools, 2 Pre-k & 1 Alternative Site

- Five schools will be repurposed (Dobbs, Johnson, Symington, Truman, and Ingels).
- All remaining elementary schools (Compass, Santa Fe, Warford) will house a K-5 grade configuration and serve as neighborhood schools.
- The current Smith-Hale Middle School and Hickman Mills 9th Grade Center will become a 6-8 grade middle school housing all students in the district at those grade levels.
- Ninth grade students will be housed at Ruskin High School, which will house all 9-12 grade students in the District.
- Freda Markley will continue as a preschool facility housing most of the preschool students.
- Ervin will become a PK-5 grade configuration and serve as the fourth neighborhood school.

This model is recommended based upon the following factors:

- Utilizing facilities that reflect the best overall condition.
- Further increasing facility utilization to acceptable levels while maintaining best practices regarding school size.
- Reflecting a reasonable geographical distribution across the District.
- Resulting in significant cost savings.

Considerations for this option included:

- This option results in a district-wide utilization of 70 percent. However, excess capacity at Smith-Hale Middle School (6-8) would heavily impact district-wide utilization. Capacity levels at all elementary school sites have improved and would exceed 85 percent, placing them in the “adequate use of space” range.

Option 3

1 High School, 1 Middle School, 6 Elementary Schools, 2 Pre-K & 1 Alternative Site

- Three schools will be repurposed (Johnson, Symington, and Truman)
- All remaining elementary schools (Compass, Santa Fe, Ingels, Warford, and Dobbs) will house a K-5 configuration and serve as neighborhood schools.
- The current Smith-Hale Middle School and Hickman Mills Freshman Center will become a 6th-8th grade middle school. Ninth grade students will be housed at Ruskin High School, which will house all 9th-12th grades.
- Freda Markley will continue as a preschool facility housing most of the preschool students.
- Ervin will become a PK-5 grade configuration and serve as the sixth neighborhood school.

This model is recommended based upon the following factors:

- Utilizing facilities that reflect the best overall condition.
- Further increasing facility utilization to acceptable levels while maintaining best practices regarding school site.
- reflecting a reasonable geographical distribution across the District.
- Resulting in significant cost savings.

Considerations for this option included:

- Option 3 results in a district-wide utilization of 60 percent. However, excess capacity at Smith Hale Middle School (6-8) would heavily impact district-wide utilization. capacity levels at all elementary school sites have improved; however, all sites (except Ervin) would still fall in the “inefficient use of space” range.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

Based on the information, the analysis and the projected cost savings, MGT’s Option 3 is one of two Superintendent recommendations for the HMC-1 Board to consider. The Superintendent has also provided an alternate choice of repurposing two schools.

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the budget reductions from MGT’s Option 3 totaling \$7,220,965 in cost savings for the 2019-20 school year.

Superintendent’s Recommendation: MGT Option 3, 2019-20 Projected Cost Savings

1 High School, 1 Middle School, 6 Elementary Schools, 2 Pre-K & 1 Alternative Site

Program Restructuring	\$644,000.00
Travel – 5% Reduction	\$22,264.00
Discovery Education Contract	\$150,000.00
5 Year Pacific Education Conference Rotation	\$20,000.00
Building Teaching Supplies (10% Reduction)	\$300,000.00
Key Financial Technology Lease Fulfilled	\$263,201.00
Nexus Group – Lobbyist	<u>\$51,000.00</u>

\$1,450,465.00

Grade Reconfiguration	\$1,350,000.00
• K-5 th Grade	
• 6 th -8 th Grade	
• 9 th -12 th Grade	

Proposed Repurposed Buildings	\$4,420,5000.00
• Symington Elementary	
• Truman Elementary	
• Johnson Elementary	

Total Recommended Budget Reductions: \$7,220,965.00

The Elementary and Pre-K sites in the Superintendent’s recommendation for the 2019-20 school year would be:

Compass at Baptiste, Dobbs Elementary, Warford Elementary, Millennium at Santa Fe Elementary, Ingels Elementary, Ervin (Pre-K through 5th Grade) and Freda Markley

Superintendent’s Alternate Choice, 2019-20 Projected Savings

The Superintendent provides an alternate choice which is detailed below to provide the Board of Education two options to consider within the HMC-1 Shaping our Future Plan:

1 High School, 1 Middle School, 7 Elementary Schools, 2 Pre-K & 1 Alternative Site

Program Restructuring	\$644,000.00
Travel – 5% Reduction	\$22,264.00
Discovery Education Contract	\$150,000.00
5 Year Pacific Education Conference Rotation	\$20,000.00
Building Teaching Supplies (10% Reduction)	\$300,000.00
Key Financial Technology Lease Fulfilled	\$263,201.00
Nexus Group – Lobbyist	<u>\$51,000.00</u>

\$1,450,465.00

Grade Reconfiguration	\$1,350,000.00
• K-5 th Grade	
• 6 th – 8 th Grade	

- 9th – 12th Grade

Proposed Repurposed Buildings **\$2,747,000.00**

- Symington Elementary
- Truman Elementary

Total Recommended Budget Reduction \$5,547,465.00

The Elementary and Pre-K sites in the alternate choice for the 2019-20 school year would be:

Compass at Baptiste, Dobbs Elementary, Warford Elementary, Johnson Elementary, Millennium at Santa Fe Elementary, Ingels Elementary, Ervin (Pre-K through 5th Grade), Freda Markley

Included in both the superintendent’s recommendation and alternate choice are the following:

- CODE discontinued at the high school level, as students have access to dual credit and advanced placement courses
- Grade K-8 CODE expanded to neighborhood schools
- Choice Program expanded to neighborhood schools
- Locate educational programs at Burke: Alternative Education Program: MO Options, current OES program, GDA, Crittenton Day School and Metropolitan Community College (MCC) partnership
- Sell facilities no longer necessary for District purposes
- Convert the former administrative building (9000 Old Santa Fe Rd) to a professional development center
- Continue the use of the Buildings and Grounds facility for the near future

KCPS scores high marks on Annual Progress Report

Kansas City Public Schools, as well as other school districts, showed marked improvements on the Annual Progress Report (APR) released by the Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

KCPS earned 82.9 percent of the points possible on its 2018 Annual Progress Report, according to data shared during a press conference today at Woodland Early Learning Community School. The district celebrated as a remarkable turn-around for a school system that faced a potential state takeover just a few years ago.

Every year, DESE produces an APR that measures improvement based on several different factors for every public school and Local Education Agency (school district) in the state. These performance factors include, among other elements, Missouri Assessment Program and End-of-Course exam results, attendance and graduation rates, and career and college readiness.

APR points are accumulated for achievement and improvement in each category. School districts are expected to get at least 70 percent of the possible points in order to be considered at a “full accreditation” level.

State accreditation status is determined by a vote of the Missouri State Board of Education, which considers APR and DESE recommendations when making this decision. After losing provisional accreditation in 2011, KCPS earned that status back from the state school board in 2014. Since then, the school system has been steadily gaining ground under the leadership of Superintendent Mark Bedell.

During his remarks at the Feb. 1 press conference, Dr. Bedell credited the support of the School Board, previous superintendents, staff, students, families, elected officials and partners.

“More than anything, I want to express our deep sense of gratitude to everyone who contributed in numerous ways that helped us reach this remarkable achievement,” Dr. Bedell said. “Today, Kansas City Public Schools stands alongside other school systems in the metro area with scores that are competitive if not better than the others.”

Kansas City Public Schools Annual Progress Report

The report maximum score is 100%. Scores above 70% are required for accreditation

Dr. Bedell highlighted three particular points of pride for KCPS in the 2018 APR results.

First, KCPS students performed better than they ever have in recent memory on state exams in math and English language arts, earning 15 out of 16 points.

Second, KCPS is either at or on track to reach state goals for 2020 in all three College and Career Readiness expectations: 6 out of 10 points in assessments, which includes the ACT, SAT, ASVAB and ACT WorkKeys exams; 9.5 out of 10 points in Advanced Placement; and 10 out of 10 in Post-Secondary Placement.

Third, KCPS earned 24 out of 30 points for its graduation rate. The five-, six- and seven-year graduation rates are all on pace to meet state expectations by 2020.

“We aren’t where we need to be yet with graduation rates, but we are taking the necessary steps to get them there,” Dr. Bedell said. “But given our rates of student mobility and the fact that we serve all students regardless of when they come to us, I believe that our graduation rates will continue to be a source of celebration.”

DISTRICT NAME	Points	Pct Pts Ernd
INDEPENDENCE 30	117	97.5%
NORTH KANSAS CITY 74	116.9	97.4%
FORT OSAGE R-I	109.1	90.9%
CENTER 58	108.5	90.4%
GRANDVIEW C-4	108.2	90.2%
KANSAS CITY 33	99.5	82.9%
HICKMAN MILLS C-1	92.7	77.3%

Other School Districts

All Missouri school districts received their Annual Progress Report scores and generally reported improvements from the prior year. In general, the seven school districts LINC partners with showed improved scores. One general area where the district showed low scores was in student attendance.

Here's more detailed information published by some of the school districts.

Grandview

The district score was 90.2% — the highest for the district since 2013. Supt. Kenny Rodriquez reported, "We feel very good about our score for this year as it validates some of the hard work that our district personnel has done for the past years."

Grandview C-4 Schools Annual Performance Score

"We feel very good about our score for this year as it validates some of the hard work that our district personnel has done the past few years. While there are some key academic areas that we need to continue to improve, we are proud of the work that has been done in the area of college and career readiness," said Dr. Kenny Rodriquez, Grandview C-4 Superintendent.

90.2%

Annual Performance Report highlights:

- We have increased the percentage of students scoring at or above the state standard on college and career ready assessments (ACT, ASVAB, WorkKeys) by 12% over the past two years
- We have increased the percentage of students prepared for postsecondary (College, Military, occupation related to their training) by over 20% the past two years to a high of 92.2%.
- Our 4 year graduation rate remains steady and higher than the national average.

Hickman Mills

The Hickman Mills School District received its highest percentage in five years with a score of 77%, putting the district on track to regain full accreditation. The substantial growth is the result of several factors including an increase in points earned in mathematics.

Table One - MSIP 5 Standards	Points Possible	HMC-1 2018 Points Earned
Academic Achievement	40	25
Subgroup Achievement	10	6.2
College & Career Readiness	30	25.5
Attendance	10	6
Graduation Rate	30	30
Total Points Earned	120	92.7
APR Percent		77.3%

Fort Osage

The school district scored 90.9% on the Annual Performance Review

North Kansas City

The school district scored 97.4%

Center

The school district scored 90.4%

Independence

The school district scored 97.5%

PRESS RELEASE

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
2901 TROOST AVENUE, KANSAS CITY, MO 64109
816.418.7420 • KCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

MEDIA ADVISORY

KCPS Celebrating Successful Launch of Breakfast In the Classroom Program made possible thanks to nearly \$500,000 national 3grant

Kansas City, March 1, 2019: Kansas City Public Schools and Operation Food Search are ready to celebrate their joint efforts to help children get the most important meal of the day so that they can focus on the important work of learning.

The school system and the non-profit organization are hosting a press conference starting promptly at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, March 8 at James Elementary School to showcase the successful launch of the Breakfast In the Classroom program in KCPS. The school is located at 5810 Scarritt Ave. in Kansas City, Mo.

KCPS received \$477,742 in grant funding for 25 schools serving 12,500 students to introduce Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) breakfast service. The expansion is jointly funded by General Mills Foundation and the Partners for Breakfast in the Classroom, a consortium of national education and nutrition organizations including the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), the NEA Foundation, and the School Nutrition Foundation, which is funded by the Walmart Foundation.

The press conference will include remarks by Superintendent Mark Bedell, Principal Mary Bachkora, Operation Food Search Director of Child & Family Nutrition Brian Wieher, students and elected officials.

KCPS recently implemented the program at six schools: Harold Holliday Sr. Montessori School, James Elementary School, Longfellow Elementary School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Trailwoods Elementary School and Troost Elementary School. These sites have seen a significant increase in the number of students who eat breakfast at school since the program was launched.

The program is designed to serve nutritionally balanced breakfasts that meet the current USDA nutrition standards for the School Breakfast Program (SBP). The BIC program is an in-class model that encourages all students to participate in breakfast.

March 4 through 8 is National School Breakfast Week (NSBW). This weeklong celebration launched in 1989 to raise awareness of the availability of the SBP, a federally assisted meal program operating in public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions since 1975.



LINC
Local Investment Commission

21st Century
Community Learning Centers



16 Years of 21CCLC
LINC Programs

\$20.4 Million
21CCLC Funding Since 2002

23

LINC
21CCLC Sites

2,390

Average Daily Attendance

Teacher Survey

64%

Reported Higher
Academic Achievement

50%

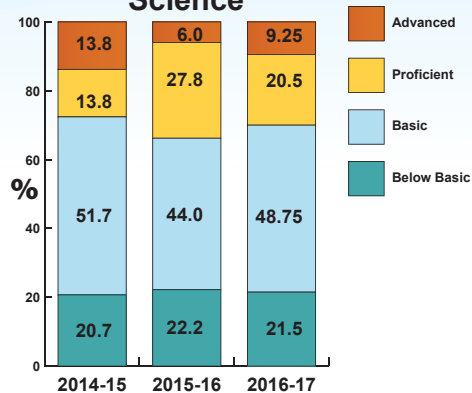
Reported Increased
Math Achievement

70%

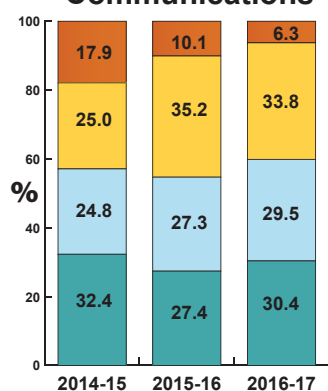
of youth reported a
high interest in STEM

MAP Testing

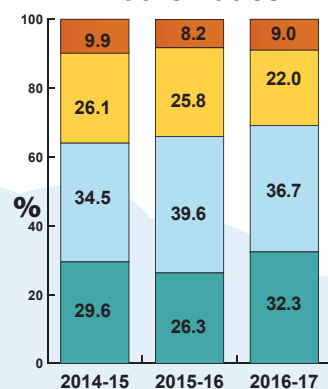
Science



Communications



Mathematics



What is STEM?

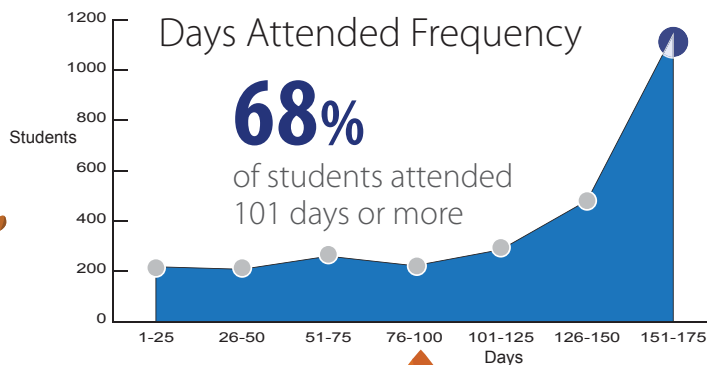
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) represents how all topics in subject areas relate to each other and to the real world. The sentence that defines this is: Science & Technology, interpreted through Engineering & the Arts, all based in Mathematical elements.

LINC STEM Activities and Clubs

Aeronautics, Cooking, Construction, Chess, Computer Programming, Electronics, Graphic Design, Math Club, Film-making, Photography, Robotics, Zoology and more!

64
Activities

Days Attended Frequency



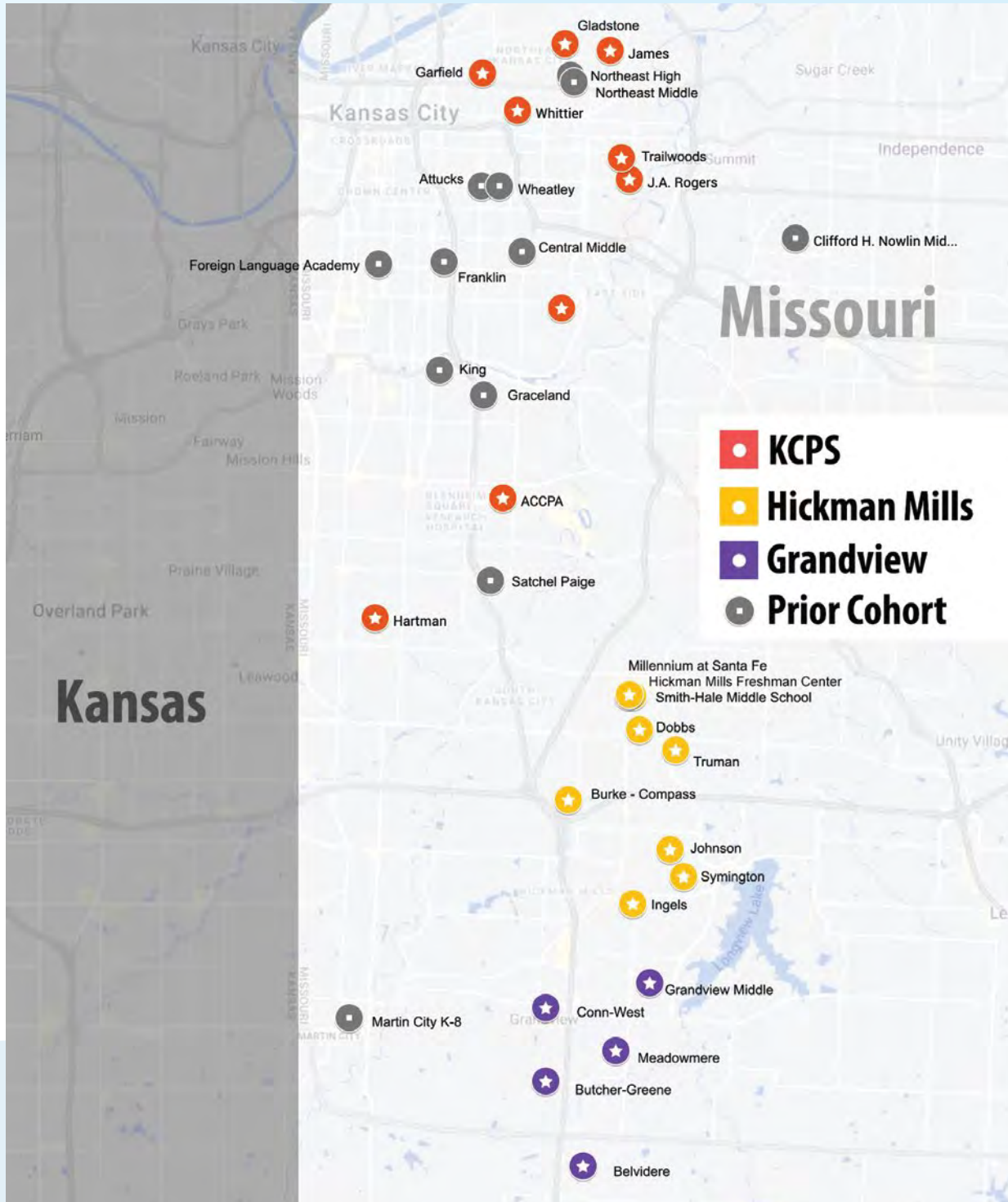
LINC 21CCLC Sites



African Centered College Preparatory Academy
 Garfield
 Gladstone
 Hartman
 James
 Melcher
 Rogers
 Trailwoods
 Whittier

Belvidere
 Butcher-Greene
 Conn-West
 Grandview Middle
 Meadowmere

Compass at Baptiste
 Dobbs
 Hickman Mills Freshman Center
 Ingels
 Johnson
 Millennium @ Santa Fe
 Smith-Hale Middle School
 Symington
 Truman



21st Century Community Learning Centers

Inspiring Learning. Supporting Families.
Earning Results.

April 2018



Nancy Boehm, Raider's ARK, Arcadia, WI



EVOLUTIONS program at the Yale Peabody Museum

Afterschool programs inspire kids to learn, help them make better decisions, and give parents peace of mind. Programs spark greater interest in school so students attend school more often, get better grades, and are more likely to graduate.¹ But the demand for these programs far exceeds the supply. Nationwide, only 1 in 3 families who want afterschool for their children has access to programs.²

21st Century Community Learning Centers provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities in every state. Programs are selected for funding based on their ability to meet the needs of students and families and their connection to education priorities in the state. These Community Learning Centers provide:³

- ▶ opportunities for new, hands-on, academically enriching learning experiences to meet the challenging state academic standards;
- ▶ a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, focusing on subjects like STEM, physical fitness and wellness, drug and violence prevention, nutrition and health education, service learning, youth development, and arts and music;
- ▶ activities that tie into in-demand industry sectors or occupations that are designed to reinforce and complement the academic program of participating students, including, but not limited to, financial and environmental literacy, career readiness, internships, and apprenticeships; and
- ▶ families of students with opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

Community Learning Centers by the numbers

1,685,036 children and youth served⁴
183,461 adult family members served⁴
11,512 school-based and community centers⁴

Programs stay open (on average)⁵
13.8 hours per week
5 days per week
32 weeks per year



**Afterschool
Alliance**

afterschoolalliance.org

Strong Results

Having afterschool choices helps students learn and grow, helps parents balance work and life, and helps employers hire the local workforce they need in the present and the future.

Supporting Academic Success

- ▶ Students who regularly participate in Community Learning Centers improved their school attendance, class participation and behavior, homework completion, and reading and math achievement scores and grades.^{6,7}
- ▶ Regular participation in afterschool programs helped narrow the achievement gap between high- and low-income students in math, improved academic and behavioral outcomes, and reduced school absences.⁸

Supporting the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow

- ▶ Businesses want to hire problem solvers and team players. Students learn by doing in afterschool programs and develop the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow.
- ▶ Jobs in science, technology, engineering, and math are driving global economic growth. Seven million students are getting opportunities to develop an interest and explore STEM in afterschool.⁹
- ▶ 8 in 10 parents say afterschool helps give them peace of mind and helps them keep their jobs.²

Among students regularly attending a Community Learning Center:⁴



Close to 1 in 2
**improved their
math and Language
Arts grades**



Close to 2 in 3
**improved their
homework completion
and class participation**



Close to 3 in 5
**improved their
behavior in class**



Image(s) provided by The 50 State Afterschool Network

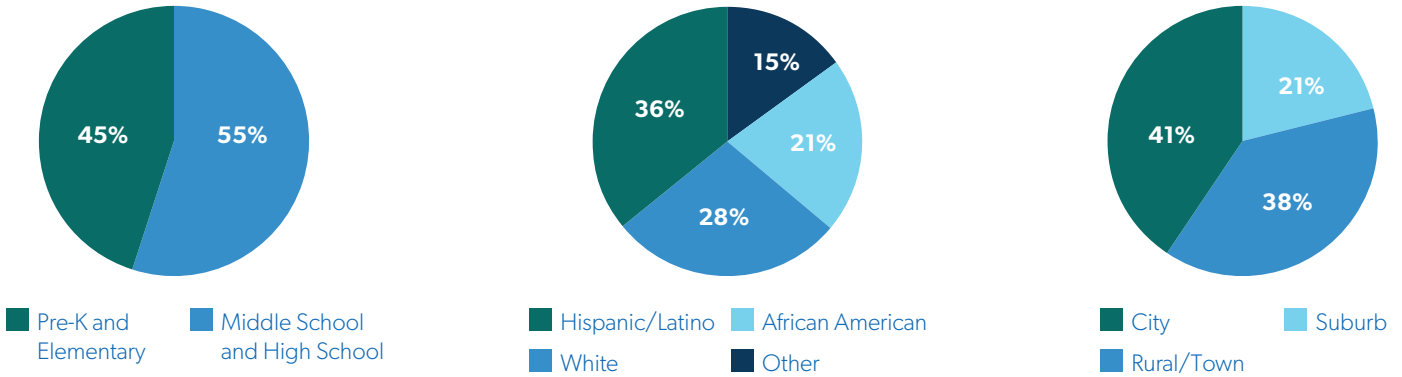
Regular attendance produces greater gains

A study of approximately 3,000 low-income, ethnically diverse elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs (including Community Learning Centers) for more than two years gained up to 20 percentiles in standardized math test scores compared with peers who were routinely unsupervised during the afterschool hours. Students with lower program attendance gained 12 percentiles compared with their non-participating peers.¹⁰

Reducing Barriers

21st Century Community Learning Centers provide essential support to students who are often underserved and offer creative, engaging learning opportunities to kids of all ages and backgrounds.

Students served^{4,11}



▶ 67% participate in the federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program⁴

▶ 13% have Limited English Proficiency⁴

Driven by Local Needs

21st Century Community Learning Centers work closely with schools, youth and community groups, faith-based organizations, and businesses. Each program is shaped by the local community to best meet the needs of the people and organizations it serves. In turn, partners of each grantee contribute an average of \$67,000 to support programs.¹²

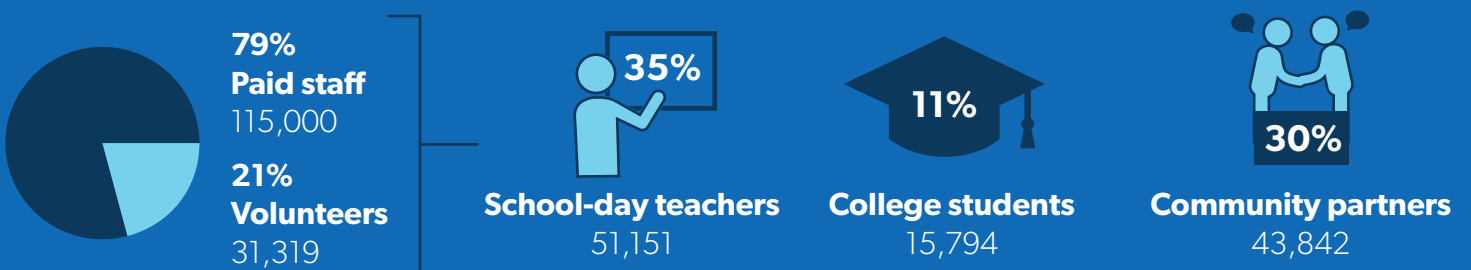
Between 2006 and 2010, partners contributed more than \$1 billion.



Close to **9 in 10** Community Learning Centers are located in schools⁴
 Each grantee has an average of **9 partner organizations**.⁵
 Among grantees:⁵

- ▶ **2 in 5 are community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, private schools, and charter schools**
- ▶ **3 in 5 are school districts**

Staff Profile⁴ (based on 146,319 total staff)



Funding and Unmet Demand

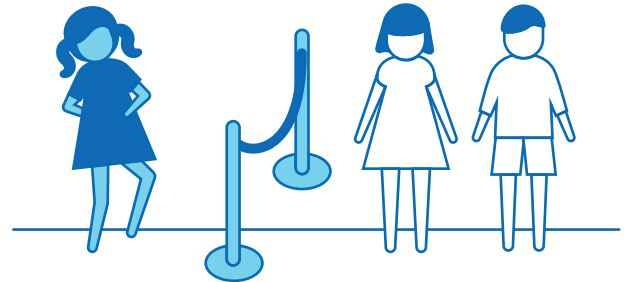
Parents across America want afterschool and summer programs for their children, but cost and lack of available programs are standing in their way.

For every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in. And in rural communities, three children are waiting for every child enrolled.²

21st Century Community Learning Center grants are the only federal funding source dedicated exclusively to providing afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth. Over the course of 10 years, unmet demand for afterschool grew by 20 percent, but funding has remained flat.^{2,13}

More than 21 million youth are eligible to attend Community Learning Centers, but funding allows only 1.7 million to participate.^{4,14}

Only 1 in 3 requests for funding Community Learning Centers is awarded. Over the span of 10 years, \$4 billion in local grant requests were denied because of intense competition and lack of adequate federal funding.¹⁵



For every child in an afterschool program, two are waiting to get in.

Annual cost of Community Learning Center programs

- ▶ **\$298,000** per grant⁵
- ▶ **\$1,510** per regular attendee⁴
- ▶ **\$122,000** per center⁵

Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$3 by¹⁶

- ▶ Increasing kids' earning potential
- ▶ Improving kids' performance at school
- ▶ Reducing crime and welfare costs

Sources

- 1 Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.). Afterschool Alliance Research. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/research.cfm>.
- 2 Afterschool Alliance. (2014). America After 3PM: Afterschool Programs in Demand. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>.
- 3 Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. S. 1177—182, Part B—21st Century Community Learning Centers. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1177enr/pdf/BILLS-114s1177enr.pdf>.
- 4 U.S. Department of Education. (2016). 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2014-2015. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/performance.html>.
- 5 Learning Point Associates. Profile and Performance Information Collection System (PPICS). Data retrieved May 1, 2014.
- 6 Naftzger, N., Sniegowski, S., Devaney, E., Liu, F., Hutson, M. & Adams, N. (2015). Washington 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Evaluation: 2012-13 and 2013-14. American Institutes for Research. <http://www.k12.wa.us/21stCenturyLearning/pubdocs/Final2012-14StatewideEvaluationReport.pdf>.
- 7 Wisconsin Department of Instruction. (2014). 21st Century Community Learning Centers-Executive Summary 2012-2013. <http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/clcevalreport2014.pdf>.
- 8 Pierce, K. M., Auger, A. & Vandell, D. L. (2013). Narrowing the Achievement Gap: Consistency and intensity of structured activities during elementary school. Unpublished paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Seattle Wa. <http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/The%20Achievement%20Gap%20is%20Real.pdf>.
- 9 Afterschool Alliance. (2015). Full STEM Ahead: Afterschool Programs Step Up as Key Partners in STEM Education. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/>
- 10 Vandell, D. L., Reiser, E. R. & Pierce, K. M. (2007). Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs: Longitudinal Findings from the Study of Promising Afterschool Programs. Policy Studies Associates, Inc. <http://education.uci.edu/childcare/pdf/afterschool/PP%20Longitudinal%20Findings%20Final%20Report.pdf>.
- 11 U.S. Department of Education. (2015). 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) analytic support for evaluation and program monitoring: An overview of the 21st CCLC performance data: 2013-14. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/performance.html>.
- 12 Griffin, S. S. & Martinez, L. (2013). The Value of Partnerships in Afterschool and Summer Learning: A National Case Study of 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success. <http://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds/article/value-partnerships-afterschool-and-summer-learning-national-case-study-21st>.
- 13 Afterschool Alliance. (n.d.) 21st Century Community Learning Centers. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policy21stcclc.cfm>.
- 14 National Center for Education Statistics. (n.d.). Title I. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=158>.
- 15 O'Donnell, P. & Ford, J. R. (2013). The Continuing Demand for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Across America: More Than Four Billion Dollars of Unmet Need. Expanding Minds and Opportunities: Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success. <http://www.expandinglearning.org/expandingminds/article/continuing-demand-21st-century-community-learning-centers-across-america-more>.
- 16 Brown, W. O., Frates, S. B., Rudge, I. S., Tradewell, R. L. (2002). The Costs and Benefits of After School Programs: The Estimated Effects of the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002. The Rose Institute of Claremont-McKenna College. http://www.middlechildhoodmatters.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/claremontmckenna_CostsandBenefits.pdf.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Find out more about access in your area.

afterschoolalliance.org



Afterschool Alliance

Trump Seeks 10 Percent Cut to Education Department Aid, \$5 Billion for Tax-Credit Scholarships

By Andrew Ujifusa on March 11, 2019 12:00 PM

President Donald Trump is seeking a 10 percent cut to the U.S. Department of Education's budget in his fiscal 2020 budget proposal, which would cut the department's spending by \$7.1 billion down to \$64 billion starting in October.

Funding for teacher development under Title II, totaling \$2.1 billion, would be eliminated, as would \$1.2 billion in Title IV funding for academic supports and enrichment and \$1.1 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers that support after-school programs. In total, funding for 29 programs would be eliminated in the federal budget.

On the other side of the ledger, Trump's budget blueprint calls for \$500 million for federal charter school grants, a \$60 million increase from current funding levels. The president also wants \$200 million for the School Safety National Activities program, which would more than double the program's \$95 million in current funding—of that amount, \$100 million would be used to fund a new School Safety State Formula Grant program. There are no requirements for the grant program related to firearms, according to the Education Department. And the office for civil rights would get \$125 million, the same as current funding.

On the school choice front, the department says its main proposal has already been introduced: a federal tax-credit scholarship program from Republicans. The Treasury Department's budget proposal includes \$5 billion for the cost of such a program.

Meanwhile, the Education Innovation and Research fund would be funded at \$300 million, a \$170 million increase from fiscal 2019. Of that amount, \$200 million would "test the impact of teacher professional development vouchers," according to a presentation from the Education Department, while \$100 million would go toward innovative STEM grants. In addition, the Trump budget would provide \$50 million for a pilot program under Title I to help districts create and use weighted student-funding formulas—this pilot program was **created under the Every Student Succeeds Act** in order to help schools focus money directly on disadvantaged students and those with special needs.

Title I funding for disadvantaged students, the single-largest federal funding program for public schools, remains flat at \$15.9 billion in Trump's budget pitch. Special education grants to states would also be level-funded at \$13.2 billion. Also flat-funded are the English Language Acquisition formula grants at \$737.4 million.

"This budget at its core is about education freedom—freedom for America's students to pursue their life-long learning journeys in the ways and places that work best for them, freedom for teachers to develop their talents and pursue their passions, and freedom from the top-down 'Washington knows best' approach that has proven ineffective and even harmful to students," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a statement about the budget proposal.

On a Monday conference call with reporters, Jim Blew, the assistant secretary for planning, evaluation, and policy development, acknowledged that Congress and the Trump administration have not been synced up in terms of education spending priorities.

"The administration believes that we need to reduce the amount of discretionary funding for the education," Blew said. "That is based on the desire to have some fiscal discipline and address some higher-priority needs."

Blew indicated that the priorities should be the disadvantaged children and students with disabilities.

[For more details on Trump's fiscal 2020 proposal for the Education Department, click here.](#)

Past Failures to Shrink the Department

The U.S. Department of Education's current budget is about \$71.5 billion. That's the largest nominal spending figure (not adjusted for inflation) in the department's history.

The basic outlines of the 2020 budget proposal mark the third fiscal cycle in which Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos have sought to cut the Education Department's budget. In many key respects, [as we wrote Sunday. Trump's first two education spending plans fell flat in Congress.](#) In fact, Congress increased education spending for both fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2019 by small amounts. And Congress has also criticized the budgetary process at the department under DeVos.

Advocates for after-school programs were quick to rebuke Trump's proposal to eliminate 21st Century Community Learning Centers. If Congress goes along with it, "Young children will be left without supervision. Working families will face untenable choices about how to ensure the safety of their children in the afternoon hours and over the summer. Learning opportunities will be squandered. Children, families and our economy will lose out," said Jodi Grant, the executive director of the Afterschool Alliance, in a statement.

The most dramatic changes Trump has sought for the department's budget probably came in his first year, when he proposed [a cut of more than 13 percent for fiscal 2018](#), the end of long-standing federal programs dealing with teachers' professional development and after-school activities, and a big shot in the arm for school choice.

He followed up for fiscal 2019 with [a smaller proposed cut to the Education Department of 5 percent.](#) However, he once again sought to eliminate teacher training money under Title II and after-school spending, as well as the Title IV grant program designed to create safer schools and academic enrichment for students. In a particularly robust sign of its disdain for this plan—and in response to the Parkland, Fla., school shooting in February 2018—Congress boosted Title IV spending from \$400 million to \$1.1 billion.

The Trump administration later praised this spending increase as a boon for school safety, despite its previous attempts to eliminate Title IV as redundant—the block grant program is designed to cover a variety of programs, not just school safety. So it's notable that the administration is seeking to eliminate it once again.

The one school choice victory for Trump on this front so far is a growing federal investment in charter schools. Spending on federal charter grants has grown from \$333 million to \$440 million during Trump's presidency.

DeVos has already thrown her support behind a federal tax-credit scholarship proposal in Congress released at the end of last month. She's backing a \$5 billion bill from Rep. Bradley Byrne, R-Ala. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has a similar proposal that seeks \$10 billion in appropriations for the scholarships.

III. PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION

The Request supports the Administration’s commitment to eliminating funding for programs that have achieved their original purpose, duplicate other programs, are narrowly focused, or are unable to demonstrate effectiveness. The Request eliminates 29 programs, for an annual savings of \$6.7 billion compared to the fiscal year 2019 appropriation. The table below identifies each program—in alphabetical order—and respective funding (i.e., fiscal year 2019 Budget Authority). A brief summary of each program follows the table.

	2019 BA (in millions)
21st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1,221.7
Alaska Native Education	35.5
American History and Civics Education	4.8
Arts in Education	29.0
Comprehensive Centers	52.0
Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants	190.0
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	840.0
Full-Service Community Schools	17.5
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education	5.0
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs	360.0
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	23.0
Impact Aid Payments for Federal Property	74.3
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	27.0
International Education and Foreign Language Studies Domestic Programs	65.1
International Education and Foreign Language Studies Overseas Programs	7.1
Javits Gifted and Talented Education	12.0
Native Hawaiian Education	36.4
Promise Neighborhoods	78.3
Ready to Learn Programming	27.7
Regional Educational Laboratories	55.4
Special Olympics Education Programs	17.6
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	10.0
Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems	32.3
Strengthening Institutions	99.9
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	1,170.0
Supported Employment State Grants	22.5
Supporting Effective Educator Development	75.0
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	2,055.8
Teacher Quality Partnership	43.1
Total	\$6,688.0

Kansas City tenant rights group finally gives renters a voice. Will City Hall listen?

Is affordable housing a bigger issue in Kansas City than the [debate](#) surrounding the new [airport terminal](#)? If not, it should be, says the founder of a new grassroots organization dedicated to tenant rights.

And the group, KC Tenants, has a legitimate and urgent argument for more affordable housing in the city. Founder [Tara Raghuv](#) is a Harvard grad who has done extensive [research into evictions](#) in Kansas City.

The group's calls for needed protections, including an emergency fund to help renters avoid evictions and a tenant bill of rights, should help steer the community conversation about these issues and ensure that tenants have access to safe, affordable and livable housing.

Last year's passage of Kansas City's Healthy Home initiative, which enables health inspectors to investigate complaints of poor conditions in rental housing, was a step in the right direction. But much more work remains, and city officials can no longer afford to take a wait-and-see approach to some of the issues raised by the group in its [people's housing platform](#).



"If we wait another four years, Kansas City may well have been fully bought and sold by out-of-state investors and big downtown developers, and our folks won't be here anymore," Raghuv said. "Period."

It's inspiring to see renters in Kansas City [organizing](#) and [taking a stand](#). Deeply-entrenched landlords' groups and influential developers have dominated the city's housing debate for years.

Now, renters have a voice that will counterbalance the demands from developers and landlords and will raise important questions that deserve answers.

Not all of KC Tenants' ideas should be embraced, though. Rent control, which is banned statewide, isn't the answer. Neither is a call for political candidates to refuse donations from real estate developers and industry executives.

"Just know that if you go the friends and family and personal wealth approach to funding campaigns, you may limit the ability of candidates of color to compete in fundraising," Councilman Quinton Lucas, a candidate for mayor and chairman of the housing committee, [wrote](#) in response to the group.

Organizers of KC Tenants challenged the [11 candidates running for mayor](#) to make [affordable housing](#) in Kansas City as big of an issue as construction of the new [\\$1.5 billion dollar terminal at Kansas City International Airport](#).

Some [mayoral candidates](#) have expressed interest in the group's calls to action. Others have remained [quiet](#).

The [\\$75 million City Council members want to find to pay for affordable housing](#) is a good start, KC Tenants says. But the ordinance lacks a funding source.

"It's not worth the paper it's printed on," says Robert Long, president of the nonprofit landlord association Landlord, Inc.

Low-income folks deserve safe, affordable housing, Long said. But he strongly opposes KC Tenants' people-over-profit message.

"Housing is a right," he said. "We have a right to make a living."

He's right, but too often, landlords and developers have wielded outsized power and influence at City Hall.

Policy questions about [evictions and affordable housing](#) are central to the mayor's race, and the emergence of KC Tenants should help ensure that these issues finally get the attention they deserve.

Candidates and elected officials should listen carefully to these voices and consider how, exactly, to address a growing housing crisis in Kansas City.

High rents, threat of eviction push housing to top of issue agenda in KC mayoral race

Allison Kite

For a while, it was working out for Virginia Vann.

She moved back from Texas, where she stayed for a year after leaving her husband, to live with her daughter. She eventually found an \$8.45-an-hour job cleaning office buildings.

A Google search for cheap housing led her to an income-based \$415-a-month apartment just across the Kansas City line in Raytown.

But then the 1999 Lexus she relied on to get to work started wearing out. Repair bills ran as high as \$1,600, so she had to use some of the money set aside for rent.

“I just paid what I could with my rent, and then, shoot, sometimes I had to borrow money from my daughter to eat,” said Vann, 63.

At first, the management at her apartment complex was understanding. But car expenses again put Vann behind on rent, and she was evicted in April 2016. She moved in with another daughter and started the search for the next place.

In a city where [nearly half of renters are “cost burdened”](#) — spending more than 30 percent of their income on rent — Vann’s story from the economic edge is a common one. Even her income-based rent couldn’t save her from the unexpected, budget-busting car repairs.

It’s one of countless narratives adding [new urgency to Kansas City’s debate around affordable housing](#) and protection for tenants vulnerable to eviction. Nearly all of the 11 candidates for mayor have identified it as a top issue in the 2019 election.

With the April 2 primary less than a month off, [contenders are trying to show they can lead the way](#).

City Councilman Quinton Lucas, 3rd District at-large, chairman of the council’s housing committee, has [shepherded to passage ordinances creating a yet-to-be-bankrolled Housing Trust Fund](#) and a streamlined building permit process. Councilwoman Jolie Justus, 4th District, [championed a measure](#) allowing domestic violence survivors to break their leases without penalty. She has advocated free legal services for neighborhoods and school districts to help families stay in their homes. ^[1]_[SEP]

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner, 1st District at-large, has [proposed a property tax increase to provide a sustainable flow of cash](#) to the trust fund. Phil Glynn, a Crossroads businessman whose company builds affordable housing, says he’s the only candidate who understands what private markets need to partner with local government.

“I bring that private-sector experience of knowing what local governments can do to help deals close and also having seen what sometimes local governments do to prevent deals from closing,” Glynn told a crowd gathered at a [mayoral forum on real estate](#). “I want to facilitate bringing more units onto the market because this is about supply and demand. Rents won’t come down in Kansas City until we bring thousands of new units onto the market.”

At stake is a selling point that Kansas City has enjoyed for years: a reputation for affordability. But “that’s no longer true,” said Michael Duffy, managing attorney for Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

According to data he presented to the City Council Housing Committee, rental rates in Kansas City rose at double the national average in 2017.

“I don’t think it’s too late in Kansas City,” said Tara Raghuvver, a tenant rights activist, “and I think that means that we have an opportunity — and not just an opportunity but a responsibility — to make a bold intervention now.”

Raghuvver studied evictions in Kansas City while at Harvard and has since moved back to the area to [establish a tenant power organization](#), which [launched on the steps of City Hall](#) earlier this month.

Raghuvver said affordable housing is on the radars of officials in Kansas City, but the voices of tenants impacted by public policy decisions have been missing from those conversations.

[On a frigid Monday morning, around 75 Kansas Citians took to the steps of City Hall to demand that officials address affordability and tenant protections.](#)

“I feel defeated, but I also feel ready,” Brandy Granados, a leader in KC Tenants, told the rally Monday. “I’m ready to write my rights into enforceable law. I am ready to fight.”

‘I’m just stuck here’

When Vann she set out to find a new home, some landlords told her flatly they would not rent to anyone with an eviction on record. She thinks that’s unfair.

“Because people come to situations where they get sick, they can’t work,” Vann said. “There’s a lot of things that come to play when you’re living in a house or renting a house or apartment.”

Eventually, she found a building that would take her as long as she paid off the back rent at her old apartment complex.

Now she’s paying \$675 a month near 80th and Campbell streets, where she said she has lived for about a year and a half. Vann is making payments on a new car, but a raise at her full-time job brought her to \$12 an hour. After she finishes her 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. shift for Woodley Building Maintenance, she goes home to rest, then heads back out from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. for another cleaning company.

Crystal Bess has yet to recover from her eviction.

Her problems began in May when water bills started climbing for no apparent reason. While Bess was on vacation in June, she said the water heater broke, channeling water into her basement.

Bess said the landlord was unresponsive.

“Many times he said, ‘Oh, I’m coming over,’ and then never showed up,” said Bess, 33 who says she works up to 55 hours a week at Metro PCS. The high water bills threw her behind on the rent.

Her landlord eventually took her to court, where Bess said she tried to show the judge that he wasn’t fixing the problem. He wouldn’t have it.

With an eviction on file, she’s had to move in with her mom near Linwood Boulevard and Spruce Avenue.

“I’m just stuck here,” she said.

It’s cases like that where Gina Chiala sees the need for attorneys to represent tenants.

Chiala, executive director of Heartland Center for Jobs and Freedom, goes to the Jackson County Courthouse most Thursdays when judges hear tenant-landlord cases.

She and her staff started observing court proceedings in the fall of 2017, and it didn’t take long before they decided to intervene. Now, they hand out fliers and try to provide guidance for tenants facing eviction.

“We were so panicked by what we were seeing, which was one tenant after another signing consent judgments, agreeing to their own eviction and basically expediting the process by which they would be evicted without understanding what they were signing, what their rights were, what their options were,” Chiala said.

Chiala believes the city should invest in attorneys to provide free representation for tenants when they go up against a landlord’s lawyer.

It’s not that tenants’ attorneys could win every case. There’s not much defense for tenants who fall behind on rent in an apartment the landlord is caring for adequately. But access to counsel could help some reach settlements to keep evictions off their records and rent flowing in for the landlord.

Several candidates told The Star that they’d like to see more city dollars spent on tenant assistance programs, including Chiala’s and Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

Justus suggested investing in Legal Aid’s “Adopt-A-Neighborhood” Project, which provides legal services to neighborhoods, nonprofits and individuals for issues from property rights to taxes and business incorporation.

“We must continually strive to keep people in their homes,” Justus said. “This stabilizes neighborhoods, reduces vacant and abandoned properties and assists our community by curbing the student mobility that is crippling many schools and families.”

Glynn said he’d like to see the city enforce ordinances that protect residents from bad landlords and that he would support grassroots coalitions organizing for tenants’ rights. ^[1]_[SEP]

“But the best thing Kansas City can do for working families and senior citizens in rental housing is to grow jobs and increase the supply of housing,” Glynn said. “This market-driven approach will lead to greater supply of housing and greater choice for tenants.”

‘Closed mouths don’t get fed’

Kansas City’s rental market is tightening. A decade ago, the city had a high vacancy rate, but now it’s below the national average. And when rental markets get competitive, prices go up.

Dianne Cleaver is president and CEO of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative, which works to strengthen neighborhoods in the city’s core. She said the tight real estate market means landlords can sell homes at high prices or remodel them and hike rents.

“It’s really hard for people to find decent, solid housing that they can afford,” Cleaver said.

She worried about property taxes going up and pushing out long-time residents of changing neighborhoods. Gentrification can change the cultural fabric of a community.

“And then pretty soon there is a large-scale turnover,” she said.

Lucas suggested the city use its toolbox of economic incentives to help neighborhood associations revitalize their own areas. The first step, he said, was to avoid widespread demolition of existing housing stock.

“Broad-scale demolition is not a housing policy and accelerates displacement of long-time community residents,” Lucas said. “Minor home repair program funding should be expanded...to include moderate and major home repair so that those with fixed income or those with low incomes [are not prevented from] remaining in their community.”

The city funds home repair programs, and the housing trust fund Lucas supports would set aside additional money.

The challenge for the city lies in finding the cash.

Colleen Hernandez, who has worked on affordable housing as a community developer and with Cleaver at UNI, said the true shortage of homes is for those making poverty-level wages. Officials estimate the city needs another 7,000 rental homes for residents earning \$15,000 or less.

Hernandez said that’s where the council’s recent efforts have fallen short.

“Nobody is addressing that cohort because it costs money and they don’t have any readily identifiable source,” Hernandez said.

The Council has been grappling with a proposal that would require developers receiving tax incentives to set aside 15 percent of their units to be affordable for those making 70 percent or less of the area median income, which is around \$50,000. But Duffy told members the need is for residents making even less.

Councilman Jermaine Reed, 3rd District, is the only other mayoral candidate who told The Star they would support Wagner’s proposal to raise property taxes to fund affordable housing.

“I raised it in order to invite a real conversation as to how important the affordable housing issue is to our City,” Wagner said. “If we want a real solution, we as a community have to be prepared to invest in it.”

Vann said she hadn’t settled on a candidate in the mayor’s race, but she certainly won’t sit it out.

“I’ll definitely vote,” she said. “Heck yeah. I’m a voter.”

She also believes people need to speak up. If they don’t “get out and holler” and let city leaders know what they want and need, they won’t get it, she said.

“They always say closed mouths don’t get fed.”

KEEP CENTER STRONG

Protect your investment in neighborhood schools

Bond Campaign Fact Sheet

On April 2nd, voters will be asked to approve a \$48 million bond to pay for a variety of facility improvements. The bond will NOT RESULT IN A TAX INCREASE, but will continue the current level of property taxes.

How will the money be used?

During the last 18 months, Center has completed a comprehensive facility review using a regionally recognized expert on school facilities, Hollis + Miller. Opinions were solicited from many stakeholders (including teachers, principals, students, parents, and community members). Based on that process the major projects that will be done if the bond is approved include:

- Updates to ALL district buildings to **improve student and teacher safety and security**. These will include installations of secure entryways, upgrades to communications systems, and updates to security cameras. **Cost - \$2.05 million**
 - For secure entryways, most schools will need the addition of glass-enclosed entryways leading to the office with a separately locked entrance to the rest of the building. Center Elementary School will have the main entrance moved to the south side of the building (the original main entrance) with renovation of the old football bleachers to accommodate traffic and visitor parking. Center Alternative School will require a separate entry portal prior to entering the main building.
 - Communications systems will be upgraded to provide faster and more reliable communications between the front office and staff throughout the building. This will allow staff to be notified in a timely manner of any security threats so that they can take the best possible action to protect their students and themselves.
 - Security cameras will be updated with a consistent platform throughout the District to allow security staff to appropriately monitor activity.
- **Infrastructure maintenance** to keep all buildings up to date, working well for students and teachers, and creating a quality environment to support high levels of teaching and learning - **total district cost - \$20 million**
 - **Boone Elementary - \$4.2 million** - new HVAC system, roof improvements, restroom upgrades, interior door replacements, LED lighting upgrades, ADA access improvements
 - **Center Elementary - \$1.7 million** - roof improvements, restroom upgrades, HVAC improvements, exterior lighting upgrades, LED lighting upgrades
 - **Red Bridge Elementary - \$2.6 million** - roof improvements, HVAC upgrades, main office remodel, kitchen upgrades, LED & exterior lighting





**SAMPLE BALLOT
MUNICIPAL PRIMARY &
SCHOOL ELECTION
APRIL 2, 2019**

***Instructions to Voters: Completely darken the
● oval to the left of your choice as shown. Use pencil,
black or blue pen. Do not use red ink.***

DO NOT ERASE

SAMPLE BALLOT
MUNICIPAL PRIMARY & SCHOOL ELECTION
APRIL 2, 2019
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR
VOTE FOR ONE

- SCOTT TAYLOR
- ALISSIA CANADY
- QUINTON LUCAS
- STEVE MILLER
- SCOTT WAGNER
- PHILIP "PHIL" GLYNN
- VINCENT LEE
- JOLIE JUSTUS
- JERMAINE REED
- HENRY KLEIN
- CLAY CHASTAIN
- _____
Write-In

FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
1ST DISTRICT

VOTE FOR ONE

- KEVIN O'NEILL
- _____
Write-In

FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
3RD DISTRICT

VOTE FOR ONE

- BRANDON ELLINGTON
- WALLACE HARTSFIELD, II
- _____
Write-In

FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
2ND DISTRICT

VOTE FOR ONE

- TERESA LOAR
- _____
Write-In

FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
4TH DISTRICT

VOTE FOR ONE

- KATHERYN SHIELDS
- ROBERT WESTFALL
- AUSTIN STRASSLE
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
5TH DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- LEE BARNES, JR.
- ERIK DICKINSON
- DWAYNE WILLIAMS
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER
4TH DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- JARED CAMPBELL
- ERIC BUNCH
- GEOFF JOLLEY
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER AT-LARGE
6TH DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- ANDREA BOUGH
- STACEY JOHNSON-COSBY
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER
5TH DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- BRYAN DIAL
- RYANA PARKS-SHAW
- STEPHAN GORDON
- MITCH SUDDUTH
- EDWARD BELL, II
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER
3RD DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- JOSEPH "JOEY CUTS" THOMAS
- JOSEPH JACKSON
- SHAHEER AKHTAB
- PAT CLARKE
- RACHEL RILEY
- MELISSA ROBINSON
- _____
Write-In

**FOR COUNCILMEMBER
6TH DISTRICT**

VOTE FOR ONE

- KEVIN MCMANUS
- _____
Write-In

**CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
APRIL 2, 2019**

**QUESTION 1
(Initiative Petition)
(Pre-K Economic Development Sales Tax)**

SHALL THE FOLLOWING BE APPROVED?

Shall the City of Kansas City impose a sales tax authorized by Section 67.1305 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri for a period of 10 years at a rate of 3/8% to be used for economic development purposes through funding Pre-K instruction for four and five year olds the year before they enter kindergarten, funding improvements to early childhood centers, and investing in the City's early childhood education workforce?

YES NO

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

**If you are in favor of this question, completely darken the oval beside "YES".
If you are opposed to this question, completely darken the oval beside "NO".**

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR
SUB-DISTRICT ONE
TERM EXPIRES 2021**

VOTE FOR ONE

- RITA MARIE CORTÈS
- MATTHEW STEVEN OATES
- _____
Write-In

**FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR
SUB-DISTRICT FOUR
TERM EXPIRES 2023**

VOTE FOR ONE

- NO CANDIDATES FILED
- _____
Write-In

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR
SUB-DISTRICT FIVE
TERM EXPIRES 2021

VOTE FOR ONE

- MARK WASSERSTROM
- D. JENSEN (ADAMS)
- _____
Write-In

HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR DIRECTOR
THREE-YEAR TERM

VOTE FOR TWO

- JOHN CHARLES CARMICHAEL
- TRAMISE CARTER
- CECIL ELLIOTT WATTREE
- REGINA A. LANDRY
- _____
Write-In
- _____
Write-In

FOR DIRECTOR
ONE-YEAR TERM

VOTE FOR ONE

- LUTHER CHANDLER
- RICHARD ABRAM II
- _____
Write-In

CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58
FOR DIRECTOR
ONE-YEAR TERM

VOTE FOR ONE

- STEPHEN G. STRICKLIN
- JOHNATHAN DECKER
- DANIELLE CHARISE QUINN
- _____
Write-In

FOR DIRECTOR
THREE-YEAR TERM

VOTE FOR TWO

- RONALD FRITZ
- BEVERLY CUNNINGHAM
- CECELIA M. BALL
- SAMMY COOK
- _____
Write-In
- _____
Write-In

CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58
BOND ELECTION
APRIL 2, 2019

QUESTION

Shall the Board of Education of Center School District No. 58 of Jackson County, Missouri be authorized to issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$48,000,000 for the purpose of renovating, improving, constructing, furnishing and equipping its school facilities (including refinancing short term obligations issued to provide temporary financing for such purposes), including but not limited to, (a) roof replacement and other facility repairs and long-term maintenance improvements, (b) installing energy conservation improvements, (c) improving safety through secure entrances and security cameras and (d) constructing, improving and adjusting facilities to allow for expanded early childhood programs, enrollment increases, family engagement and 21st Century learning; to the extent funds are available, resulting in no estimated tax increase to the debt service property tax levy? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the District is expected to remain unchanged at the current levy of \$0.90 per one hundred dollars assessed valuation of real and personal property.



Learn Their Stories

kclinc.org/blackhistorystories

