

LINC Commission Meeting

January 28, 2013

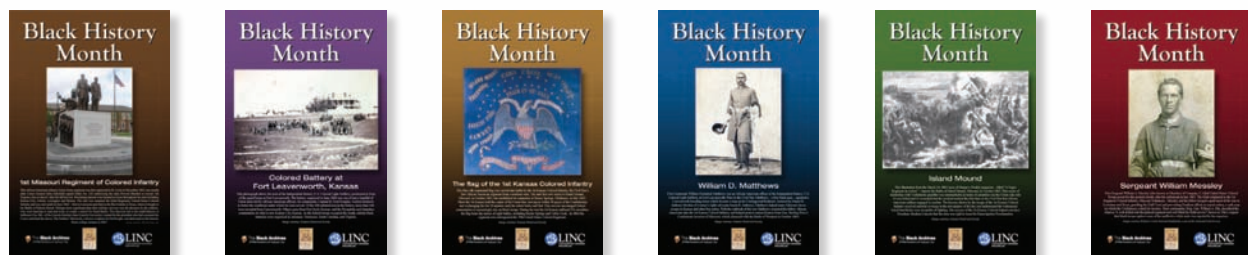
COLORED VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTIVE LIST of Monu Randolph of the 11th Colored Volunteers, enlisted in the service of, the United States under General Order, No. 135, Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri, St. Louis, November 14th, 1863. Claimed to have been the slave of a free citizen of Jackson County, State of Missouri.

Enlistment document for a free African-American citizen from Jackson County, Mo.

Source: Recruitment List of Volunteers for the United States Colored Troops for the State of Missouri, Missouri Digital Heritage, Missouri Secretary of State.

Black History Month 2013

African Americans in the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border



The American Civil War was a brutal, bloody conflict over the issue of slavery, its expansion and other issues. It enveloped the nation like no other event before or since. This year, in recognition of the Civil War sesquicentennial, we highlight the involvement of African Americans in the conflict, which had its origins in the earlier “border wars” between Missouri and Kansas.

During the Civil War, there were 29 battles fought in Missouri and 4 in Kansas as part of the Trans-Mississippi Theater. This does not include the ongoing guerilla skirmishes involving irregulars. In total, there were 10,500 armed conflicts in the nation during the war. Approximately 200,000 African Americans served in the Union Army or Navy; 40,000 of these died – 30,000 of infection or disease. The Civil War was a monumental event in the history of our country, and in the lives of the African Americans we remember here.

The Black Archives of Mid-America has prepared teacher study guides and other educational material, and will organize student field trips about the individuals and events celebrated here and in prior years of this Black History book and poster set. Study guides can be downloaded at blackarchives.org or call (816) 221-1600.

This book, and books from prior years, can be downloaded at kclinc.org/blackhistory

 The Black Archives
of Mid-America in Kansas City



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, Jan. 28, 2012 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. November minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendents' Reports**
- IV. LINC Updates**
 - a. Finance**
 - b. Personnel**
 - c. Operations**
 - d. Initiatives**
 - e. State relations**
- V. LINC Chess Program**
- VI. Other Reports**
 - a. Black history**
 - b. Health Care Foundation lawsuit**
- VII. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – NOV. 19, 2012

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Steve Dunn
Tom Gerke
Rob Givens
Anita Gorman
Bart Hakan

Judy Hunt
Tom Lewin
Rosemary Lowe
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
David Ross
Bailus Tate

Rowland made the following announcements:

LINC was founded 20 years ago this month. A celebration of the anniversary is being planned. At the table is the text of a speech that founder **Bert Berkley** gave upon LINC's founding.

Berkley has been appointed to a new non-profit board for Turn the Page KC, **Mayor Sly James's** grade-level reading initiative which announced it will receive a \$40,000 grant from the Bloomberg Foundation and the Target Corp.

A motion to approve the Oct. 15, 2012, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

David Ross introduced **Abe Cole** of BKD, who presented the findings of the LINC Fiscal Year 2011-2012 financial audit. The audit identified no material adjustments or deficiencies in internal control structures.

A motion to approve the LINC Fiscal Year 2011-2012 financial audit was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **Mark Enderle** (Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported the district has applied for an \$18 million, four-year Race to the Top grant. LINC provided assistance in developing the proposal. The district expects to be notified about the application after Christmas.
- **Jim Hinson** (Superintendent, Independence School District) reported the expanded LINC Caring Communities initiative is connecting staff with the community. The partnership will be discussed in greater detail in an upcoming LINC Commission meeting.
- **Phillip Hickman** (Principal, Genesis Promise Academy) reported LINC is supporting school families by providing parenting classes and adult GED classes.
- **Terry Ward** (School Board Member, North Kansas City School District) reported the state has announced that new Missouri School Improvement Program standards will be released next spring. He also reported that six school districts are collaborating to create a training center for pre-professional education to serve the Northland.
- **Ralph Teran** (Superintendent, Grandview School District) reported the district achieved 13 out of 14 on its Annual Performance Report and is focused on maintaining high levels of achievement.

Gayle A. Hobbs introduced **Marge Randle**, Mo. Family Support Division Kansas City regional

administrator, who reported on a recent conference for FSD eligibility specialists. The conference, which LINC helped support, was created to show appreciation to the staff and provide an opportunity to share policy. A LINC-produced video of the conference was shown.

Rowland introduced **Brian Kinkade**, Director of the Mo. Dept. of Social Services, who gave an overview of the Missouri Medicaid program including costs, usage, and historic enrollment trends. Kinkade also discussed opportunities and challenges presented by possible expansion of the program under federal Affordable Health Care Act.

Discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sunday, Jan 20, 2013

As the number of minority students grows in area schools, a learning gap remains

By JOE ROBERTSON - The Kansas City Star

Here they came.

Students of color. Hispanic. Black. Multiracial.

Their numbers in public schools across the Kansas City area have swollen by more than 25,000 in the past nine years.

And there stood Erik Erazo, when he was a security guard inside Olathe North High School, feeling as if all of them were swarming past his post.

What he saw in some of the teens worried him.

Too many wore the uncertain faces of students easily disconnected, prone to isolation and trouble — an unease he thought he'd left behind when he moved from the San Francisco Bay area 10 years ago.



"I saw kids mimicking the California look," said Erazo, now the Olathe School District's Hispanic student adviser. "I saw the long belts hanging low, the flannel shirts."

The changing demographic face of area schools has stretched north, south, east and west. And districts straining to boost their academic performance and graduation rates face a heightened economic urgency to serve these students right.

Kansas and Missouri data, sorted by The Star, mark how overall white enrollment across 40 area school districts since 2004 has declined by 7,631 students, while the number of students of color has grown by 25,468.



Districts have chipped away at performance gaps, the analysis also shows, but disparities persist.

Minority students in area districts, on average, graduated at a rate 10 percentage points below white students in 2012. On state performance tests, the average area gaps showed white students 8.3 percentage points above Hispanic students and 16.5 percentage points above black students.

Almost no district is immune to the pressure.

Even in growing districts like Olathe and Blue Valley, the influx of students of color is nearly triple the increase in white students since 2004.

Those two districts plus Shawnee Mission, North Kansas City and Independence each grew by more than 3,000 students of color.

Area districts that saw the most growth in black student population since 2004:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Lee's Summit | +1,285 |
| 2. Raytown | +1,121 |
| 3. North Kansas City | +921 |
| 4. Blue Springs | +783 |
| 5. Independence | +769 |
| 6. Olathe | +627 |

Area districts that saw the most growth in Hispanic student population:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Kansas City, Kan. | +3,427 |
| 2. Shawnee Mission | +2,676 |
| 3. Olathe | +2,381 |
| 4. Independence | +1,461 |
| 5. North Kansas City | +1,218 |
| 6. Blue Valley | +679 |

Kansas City's experience is shared nationwide, where students of color now make up more than 45 percent of the public school enrollment, up from 29 percent 20 years ago. And the numbers are growing.

"You can't deny these students anymore," said Bob Wise, president of the Alliance for Excellent Education in Washington, D.C.

The work is hard.

Olathe was eager to make use of Erazo's insight and his apparent knack for boosting students' outlooks.

The former Army serviceman moved from the security post into classrooms, going back to college on his own time to pick up an education degree to support his new mission.

Students need to be reconnected, he said. They need clubs that support academics and give minority students an entryway into the broader school community.

"You're looking for that comfort zone," he said.

The consequences in the struggle are dire, national

studies show.

An Annie E. Casey Foundation study released in December estimates that 6.5 million young people ages 16 to 24 are “disconnected” — neither working nor in school — with the rates for black and Hispanic youths particularly high.

The study showed that 16 percent of black and Hispanic youths ages 16 to 19 are disconnected, compared with 11 percent of white youths.

For ages 20 to 24, the rate rises to 29 percent for black adults and 23 percent for Hispanics, compared with 17 percent for whites.

The same disconnection shows in graduation rates, which the Alliance for Excellent Education reported in 2012 show a 20-percentage-point gulf nationwide between white and minority students.

“It’s hard to catch up,” said Margaret McKeown, a senior scientist at the University of Pittsburgh’s Learning Research and Development Center.

The roots of academic deficit stretch to gaps in vocabulary that were reaffirmed in the latest report from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, McKeown said.

Students from poorer lower socioeconomic backgrounds continue to lag behind, and students of color are heavily represented in those groups. Vocabulary weakness cripples comprehension and drags at students as they reach for academic success.

“There is no reason we can’t change that picture,” she said. “But right now it’s a situation where the rich get richer.”

Educators know it, Wise said. They see it. The urgency in the situation needs to grow and be shared outside, where schools go begging for support.

The average performance gap in percentage of students passing state tests among 26 area districts with at least 500 ethnic students, compared with white students, in 2008:

(In percentage points)

- Black gap 19.1
- Hispanic gap 12.7

The average gap compared with white students in 2012:

- Black gap 17.6
- Hispanic gap 9.1

“The moral imperative is now an economic imperative,” he said.

Wise warns the bank manager, the auto dealer, the merchant. The purchasing power of the new generation will depend heavily on the achievement of students of color. Social Security will need their economic success.

“Everyone needs to understand,” he said. “Someone else’s child is directly linked to your economic security.”

Shawnee Mission’s director of curriculum and instruction, Betsy Regan, recalled “the old days” of education.

Though not nostalgically.

“We’d cheer the success of 85 percent” who excelled on standardized tests, she said. “But the system for looking

at the 15 percent wasn’t really there.”

One of the legacies of the federal No Child Left Behind Act was that it compelled schools to focus deeper attention on often neglected students. Students from low-income homes, or with

special needs or language barriers, had to improve their scores for the schools to earn accolades.

In many ways, the law helped schools better prepare for the exploding changes in demographic groups filling their classrooms.

“You’re looking at the future,” Regan said.

Shawnee Mission, which had 500 students in its English language learner programs a dozen years ago, now has more than 3,000.

Students used to be pulled out of class and served by six teachers districtwide. Now those students are scattered among the mainstream classrooms of more than 300 teachers with specialized training to integrate language learners.

The district has been closing the performance gap between white and Hispanic students. But, as with nearly every area district, the gap is still there.

Imagine, said 16-year-old Shawnee Mission South High School student Jezlia Valdez, how she felt when she was a sixth-grader, new to the country.

“Oh my gosh,” she said. “Meeting all those new people — I was shy and timid.”

In middle school and high school, students often drift into different camps, she said. It’s not always cultural differences, but financial separation as well.

“There are things you want to get involved in,” she said, “but you can’t afford.”

Shawnee Mission teacher Jonathan Callison is part of the team that gives extra instruction to students and promotes clubs and parent programs for families like Valdez’s.

Sometimes he’s helping a family see the urgency of school, working with them to find a way to make it without their teen working a 30-hour-a-week job or even dropping out of school.

“Every kid is a unique and wonderful puzzle,” he said. “They’re trying to put the pieces in place.”

Since 2008, the most notable gains in closing achievement gaps in the region have been with Hispanic students. The gap between white and black students is more persistent.

Lee’s Summit, which has seen the largest influx of black students in the past decade, has carved more than 7 percentage points off its achievement gap over the past four years, though the gulf is still more than 20 percentage points wide.

The district is working to close the gap the same way it aims to help every student — with individualized plans to meet their needs, regardless of ethnicity, said Ann Starlin-Horner, Lee’s Summit’s assistant superintendent for instruction and leadership.

Schools, she said, assess students, dissect data, boost instruction and try to blanket students with a team that tends to their “social, emotional and behavioral needs.”

Percentage of students classified other than white in 2004:

- Kansas statewide 24.2
- Missouri statewide 22.2
- Kansas City area 31.3

Percentage of students classified other than white in 2013:

- Kansas 32.8
- Missouri 25.8
- Kansas City area 38.6

Kathy French's fourth-graders love their web of yarn.

They regularly sit in circles as a class in Olathe's Ridgeview Elementary School, unraveling the string ball and tossing it from one child to the next. At each stop, they tell something about themselves, each one keeping hold of the string as they pass it on.

The web created between them signifies something the children have come to understand.

"We all have differences," 9-year-old Adrian Garcia said. "We're all together."

French relishes those times children bring something from home to share — a warm ear of corn, some homemade tamales.

"They're comfortable," she said.

And that's so important, she said, because many students of ethnicity, especially if newly immersed in a different culture, must work hard to make up ground.

"They need motivation," French said. "They need to feel comfortable taking risks."

Principal Kim Thorup sees children often feeling dislodged from their family's native home and ill at ease in their suburban school.

"They don't feel they belong in either place," she said. "They need relationships."

Schools less often separate English language learners and tend to integrate students more. It demands more of teachers but enriches all students when successful.

"It opens the world up to the kids," said Sarah Collins, a teacher at Shawnee Mission's Briarwood Elementary School.

Nine-year-old Maria, in her second year as an English language learner at Briarwood, speaks English nearly fluently.

She has raced beyond the ABCs and phonics. She is getting math and is adding social studies, working alongside her diverse suburban schoolmates.

Integration works for her.

Said Maria: "My friends help me learn."

Sharon Leite, a 17-year-old Hispanic student originally from New York, purposefully mixes the company she keeps.



She means she mixes with teens, like her, who believe there can be a wealth of opportunities awaiting them, and with those who still don't believe.

She wants to be that voice of encouragement.

"I tell them, 'Study, study, study,'" she said.

She had paused from her immediate task of passing around fliers among some 100 students gathered at tables in the commons area at Olathe North High School. It's one of the clubs Erazo launched to get students more involved and to be leaders.

It's a relaxed crowd. Laughter fills the room. Erazo is talking about the school party to come and the open range of music options they could play.

"We'll put some corridos in there, make it saucy," he said, sparking another burst of laughter.

Leite thinks hope is growing. Confidence is growing.

"Just finish high school," she said she tells her cynical friends.

Be ready to leap at the opportunities to come, she said.

"It's getting better."

To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send email to jrobertson@kcstar.com.

Tuesday, Jan 8, 2013

Missouri school districts get early look at tougher scoring system

By JOE ROBERTSON
The Kansas City Star

Missouri school districts are getting an early glance at how they look in the state's new, more difficult, grading system — and for some the process has started with a jolt.

The state means to raise the bar, so districts that were still struggling to meet full accreditation standards under the old system, like Kansas City and Hickman Mills, are learning just how much higher they must climb on the road to recovery.

Charter schools, though they are not subject to the state's accreditation system, are also being scored, and many of them are looking at numbers that would put them at an unaccredited level.

And Independence, which has had a perfect score for the last three years on the old system, finds itself at least temporarily scoring at provisional, just below the full accreditation mark.

"These truly are draft reports to let districts know where they stand," said Margie Vandeven, the assistant education commissioner for school quality. "These are very preliminary because data corrections are still in play."

But the message to districts is clear: "The targets are increasing," she said.

Missouri has set a statewide performance target to climb among the top 10 states in all major education measures by 2020, and the stiffer standards on schools are geared to help get the state there.

Some districts can expect to boost their preliminary scores with data corrections. Independence spokeswoman Nancy Lewis said Independence has already submitted corrections in its graduation rate records that will raise its working score.

Schools have made this kind of climb before.

In 2006, the last time the state revamped its scoring system, 15 out of 27 area school districts from the beginning were scoring at a level that made them candidates for accreditation with distinction, eight started out in the regularly accredited level and four were scoring at provisional or lower.

Two of the four that had provisional-level scores — Center and Grandview — climbed all the way to the highest level. Overall, 23 of the 27 area districts scored in the highest range when the last report under the old system was issued last summer. Ultimately, only Kansas City, unaccredited, and Hickman Mills, provisionally accredited, ended the last cycle without full accreditation.

For the draft report on the new system, the state took the same data that schools used to score so highly in the last system and applied them to the new standards.

The first look shows 16 of the 27 districts in the highest range, eight at a regularly accredited level, one at a provisional level and two at the unaccredited level.

Currently 11 of the state's 520 school districts are classified as provisionally accredited, but 31 scored at that level in the new system's preliminary report. Three districts now are unaccredited, but five scored at that level in the test.

The five scoring at unaccredited include St. Louis, which recently regained provisional accreditation, but, like Kansas City, has a lot of ground to cover to reach provisional under the new system.

Kansas City is in a turnaround process with the state and, under current law, must regain at least provisional accreditation by June 2014 or face state intervention.

"The bar is higher and the hill we must climb is steeper," Kansas City Superintendent Steve Green said in a written statement. "But even with this change, which we anticipated, we have mapped out a plan that will position the district to reach provisional accreditation this school year."

The first official performance report under the new system will come this summer and include new data from state tests and other measures taken this spring. The state in most cases will not be using the new system to reclassify district accreditation statuses until 2015.

"We have time to get where we need to go," said Hickman Mills spokesman John Baccala. "We don't want people to get too alarmed."

The new system still emphasizes performance test data above all other measures, but has adjusted how it approaches some of the other metrics. Some key changes include a broader look at how well schools prepare students for college and careers, requiring them to keep more data on student success in the first years after they graduate.

The state also is trying to increase districts' accountability for the performance of students in subgroups such as ethnic groups, special education groups or students in low-income families. In the past, particularly within individual schools, students in subgroups frequently didn't occur in large enough numbers to be considered statistically valid. The new system creates a combined subgroup whose performance districts will have to report.

Figuring out this new process has been "a problem for many school districts," said Cass Midway Superintendent Gordon Myers.

But he and other superintendents said their schools accept the increasing demands from the state.

"No one questions the importance of pressure to perform," said Kearney Superintendent Bill Nicely. "That's where success comes from."

Preliminary report cards from a tougher grading system

Missouri is preparing a new system for measuring the performance of school districts that will be used to determine accreditation status starting in 2015.

School districts statewide have received preliminary assessments projecting their score based on data through 2012.

Districts will be expected to earn at least 50 percent of their possible total points to be provisionally accredited, at least 70 percent to be fully accredited and 90 percent to have a chance at earning accreditation with distinction.

Here is how area districts and charter schools were scored in the preliminary numbers, which are under review and subject to change. Some new charter schools were not scored because the state needs three years of data.

District, percentage of possible points earned

Academie Lafayette charter, 86.3	Kearney, 95.0
Allen Village charter, 67.5	KIPP Endeavor charter, 76.3
Alta Vista charter, 51.1	Lee A. Tolbert Academy charter, 61.3
Banneker Academy charter, 48.8	Lee's Summit, 94.6
Belton, 95.0	Liberty, 95.0
Blue Springs, 96.4	Lone Jack, 96.8
Brookside charter, 77.1	Midway, 93.2
Center, 80.7	Missouri City, 83.8
Della Lamb charter, 37.5	North Kansas City, 78.6
Derrick Thomas Academy charter, 48.1	North Platte, 99.3
East Lynne, 93.8	Oak Grove, 92.1
Excelsior Springs, 92.9	Park Hill, 95.4
Fort Osage, 83.6	Pathway Academy charter, 75.0
Genesis charter, 40.5	Platte County, 92.9
Gordon Parks charter, 18.6	Pleasant Hill, 83.9
Grain Valley, 94.3	Raymore-Peculiar, 94.3
Grandview, 76.8	Raytown, 78.2
Harrisonville, 83.9	Renaissance Academy charter, 39.6
Hickman Mills, 42.9	Smithville, 92.1
Hogan Prep charter, 69.3	Scuola Vita Nuova charter, 80.6
Hope Academy charter, 34.2	Strasburg, 86.3
Independence, 68.9	University Academy charter, 99.3
Kansas City, 19.6	West Platte, 96.1

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

School District – LINC Partner District or Charter School

Fri, Jan. 11, 2013

Independence School District's residency rule shakes up staff

By JOE ROBERTSON
The Kansas City Star

About 60 principals, assistant principals and other Independence School District administrators who live outside the district are going to have to start house hunting.

A policy passed by the school board this week will force administrators to live in the district by February 2015.

Superintendent Jim Hinson asked for the change, telling the board the policy would strengthen bonds between schools and neighborhoods and make school leaders more engaged in their school communities.

According to the policy, "the Board of Education believes that by residing in the District, administrators will demonstrate greater loyalty to the community, increase support for the local tax base and have enhanced opportunities to interact with students, parents and patrons of the District."

The unusual policy, however, has distressed some staff members who say many of the affected administrators are troubled by the demand. Those staff members fear that morale will suffer and that some leaders may leave.

Ninety-two administrators are subject to the new policy, and two-thirds of them live outside the district, the district reports.

Some district staff began an effort late this week to start a petition that would ask the board to reconsider its policy, at least allowing current administrators living outside the district to be exempt.

But they stopped the effort Friday, a teacher said, because they are worried that staff involved in the petitions and their administrators might suffer reprisals.

The district, with a reputation of being one of the more successful and innovative in the area, shouldn't put this burden on its top staff, another teacher said.

"I don't know why they are doing this," he said. "Why are they judging them on where they live?"

District spokeswoman Nancy Lewis, who would have to move into the district under the new policy, said she thought most administrators would support the policy.

"I do think it is best for the Independence School District and best for the city of Independence as well," she said. "Is it easy to pick up roots from another community? No, it isn't. But I do understand how, if a principal lives in the community, they might see things differently."

Most school boards require their superintendents to live within the district, but few go any farther in making residency requirements. While districts like to have their leaders living in their communities, they also try to be flexible enough to be able to hire the best talent available, experts said.

“It’s an unusual step,” said Dan Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators in Alexandria, Va. “Districts are always looking for the best people and you put restraints if they have to live in the community. ...You’re almost guaranteed to lose a good number of those folks.”

Such a policy can be even more difficult in a district with many contiguous districts, he said.

Lewis said she expects that the good intentions of the new policy will be realized and that the district’s reputation will keep it an attractive choice for administrators.

“People know we are a good district,” she said. “We are an innovative district and we pay well. People will be willing to come here.”

According to state records, Independence’s average administrator salary in 2012 was \$97,416. Among its closest neighbors, Blue Springs, Fort Osage, Grandview and Park Hill had higher average salaries; Center, Hickman Mills, Lee’s Summit, Liberty, Kansas City, North Kansas City and Raytown had lower average salaries.

Residency requirements have been more common among municipalities, affecting police officers, firefighters and other public service employees.

“Residency policies have been under attack legally, practically and politically,” said Shelly Freeman, president of HROI, which specializes in labor and employment issues. But Missouri public entities legally have the ability to enact residency policies. The question, she said, is whether “they have the political clout to carry it out.”

The Independence policy would allow administrators to seek a waiver from the superintendent in certain cases, such as if a spouse of an administrator is already subject to a residency requirement.

But otherwise, the policy states, administrators will not have their contracts renewed if they have not moved into the district by Feb. 1, 2015.

And any administrator who relocates outside the district while under contract will risk having the contract terminated.

To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send email to jrobertson@kcstar.com.

Posted on Tue, Jan. 08, 2013

KC explores extending a health care tax despite Obamacare

By DAVE HELLING
The Kansas City Star

Obamacare's promise of health care for the poor and uninsured may not be enough to relieve Kansas City taxpayers of their own health care bill.

Today a Kansas City Council committee is set to recommend an April vote on renewing part of a tax that now subsidizes health care for the indigent. If voters say yes, a property tax described as "temporary" would yield at least \$150 million — through 2023 — for Truman Medical Center, ambulance service and several neighborhood health centers. All provide free or low-cost services to the area's poorest residents.



"The levy is essential for entry-level health care," said Landon Rowland, co-chair of the Kansas City Health Commission. "It's a low-cost insurance plan for the citizens of Kansas City."

Not everyone, though, thinks a quick decision on extending the city's temporary health levy is necessary.

The Affordable Care Act — Obamacare — is supposed to improve health coverage for thousands of the city's poor, they say. By next year, most Americans must carry health insurance or face a tax penalty, a mandate that should mean Truman and the health centers will get an infusion of cash from newly insured patients.

And if the Missouri legislature agrees to expand Medicaid — admittedly a tough job, despite Gov. Jay Nixon's push — millions of additional dollars should become available for the area's public health providers. That, in turn, would further reduce the need for local support.

But Kansas City leaders don't want to wait to see whether Obamacare will work as planned.

Instead, they want voters to extend the local health levy — for another nine years — before state lawmakers decide on Medicaid and before the financial impact of the individual mandate is known.

“A cynic might think that the city is eager to keep the tax in place, rather than lose it if the state expands Medicaid,” said Patrick Tuohey, who has led opposition to local levies in the past and has fought the Affordable Care Act on the state level. “The city could and should wait to renew the tax.”

The April referendum wouldn’t involve the city’s permanent health tax, which costs a Kansas Citian in a \$100,000 home roughly \$94 each year, not counting cars or other personal property. That tax, with some changes, has been in effect for decades.

Instead, voters would be asked to renew a second, “temporary” health tax before it expires. That part of the levy, first approved in 2005, adds another \$43 to the property tax bill of a \$100,000 home.

The temporary part of the tax raises roughly \$15 million a year. Of that, \$10 million goes to Truman, with the rest split between ambulance service and the health centers.

Last year, Mayor Sly James’ Municipal Revenue Commission recommended just a four-year extension of the health levy. The Affordable Care Act and the state, commissioners suggested, could cover the poor after that.

Those four years, said commissioner Tim Kristl, were to be “a bridge to Obamacare.”

“The nine years,” he said, “seems to be over and above that bridge.”

Health officials say they’re pursuing a nine-year extension because the Affordable Care Act will never be perfect, and local taxpayers must pick up the slack. Promises to seek a regional funding solution for Kansas City’s indigent health care, they say, have come up short.

“Does the community at large perceive health care as a common good? I think that they do,” said Truman CEO John Bluford.

“Obamacare,” said Rex Archer, head of Kansas City’s Health Department, “was never supposed to cover the entire safety net.”

An April vote is also important, Archer said, because it would allow the city to go back to voters a second time if the tax fails.

Voters actually have at least four opportunities over the next two years to consider extending the levy without risking a lapse in revenue. All of those potential election dates come after the legislature adjourns this year and after it decides the Medicaid issue.

James has argued for months for more spending on the city’s crumbling streets and sidewalks, but he supports the April health levy vote.

“Access to quality, affordable health care is beyond the reach of too many Kansas Citians,” he said in an email. “Extending the health tax levy at the local level is Kansas City’s way of supporting the notion that good health should not be a reality for only those who can afford it.”

The proposal to place the extension on the April ballot is expected to pass the full City Council easily. It has been co-sponsored by every member except 2nd District Councilman Russ Johnson.

Johnson said last week he is not necessarily opposed to the extension, but thought questions about the duration of the tax and the impact of expanded Medicaid should be addressed before voters go to the polls.

Stan Dorn, a senior fellow with the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., said that extending state and local health spending might not be needed if state lawmakers agree to a more generous Medicaid.

But “if Missouri does not expand Medicaid, then public hospitals will continue to need the revenue they’ve had in the past,” he said.

That’s because Obamacare won’t provide most poverty-level patients with sufficient subsidies to buy their own private insurance, and they won’t qualify for Medicaid under current law either. Some 200,000 Missourians might miss out on health coverage if Medicaid isn’t expanded.

Many of those patients will turn to Truman for help. Today, Truman provides free or reduced-price care for clients who earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$46,100 annually for a family of four.

Additionally, the requirement that virtually all Americans carry insurance might not help as much as originally thought. If Missouri declines to expand Medicaid, Dorn said, poor individuals without coverage won’t be penalized — removing a key incentive to get insurance.

That means thousands of patients might choose to remain uninsured, increasing the pressure on hospitals like Truman. In tax year 2010-2011, the hospital lost more than \$18 million in uncollected bad debts, federal records show.

Overall, Truman lost \$7.2 million on revenue of \$452 million, including nearly \$36 million in payments from local taxpayers.

Like all hospitals under the Affordable Care Act, Truman will eventually lose the federal dollars it now gets to cover the cost of treating uninsured emergency patients. Those payments — known as “disproportionate share” — now total \$80 million a year.

The payments are being phased out because Obamacare assumes patients will have health insurance, in part through expanded Medicaid. That assumption began to change last June, when the U.S. Supreme Court said expanding Medicaid would be optional for states.

Republicans, who control the Missouri legislature, have been skeptical about expanding Medicaid, which is now limited to the state’s poorest residents with children. But they have not ruled it out, largely because the federal government has promised to cover the entire cost of the expansion in the first three years.

Some local officials say they’re willing to discuss changes in the ballot measure before the City Council locks it in. Some have suggested a lower tax amount, for example, or a shorter extension.

Archer said the council could also repeal the tax in five or six years if the Affordable Care Act provides more money than expected. But an August vote, he says, is too late.

It isn’t clear whether any ballot adjustments would satisfy critics, who say the health levy extension comes at the wrong time for cash-strapped Kansas Citians.

“The extra health levy would not only draw money away from Kansas City families already reeling from the recession,” said analyst Patrick Ishmael of the Show-Me Institute, a Missouri think tank, “it wouldn’t fix the problems of our health care system, either.”

To reach Dave Helling, call 816-234-4656 or send email to dhelling@kcstar.com.

Monday, Jan 21, 2013

Jackson County executive wants to ride transit's momentum

Now that a Kansas City streetcar tax has passed, county executive pushes for a regional, multimodal system.

By MIKE HENDRICKS
The Kansas City Star

Now that downtown Kansas City is getting a streetcar line, Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders is ready to double down his political career on a more ambitious collection of rails, trails and buses.

His developing plan would stretch transit lines to the eastern suburbs, tap into old freight rail corridors and constitute what he calls "the largest infrastructure and public improvement project" in the county's history.

Hyperbole, perhaps, but at a cost of more than \$650 million, it would be more expensive than the recent upgrades at the Truman Sports Complex and, to Sanders' way of thinking, pack far more economic impact than sprucing up Arrowhead and Kauffman stadiums.

Sanders' plan includes sleek commuter trains traveling along existing freight railroad corridors and linking downtown with Missouri suburbs as distant as Oak Grove and Pleasant Hill.

There would be new express bus service to cities that now do without, like Greenwood and Raytown, and expanded service to where buses already are crowded, like Lee's Summit.

Topping it all off are additional hiking and biking paths, including a long dreamed of link that would extend the statewide Katy Trail all the way to the sports complex.

Trains. Buses. Trails. That is both the broad outline and the trifecta that Sanders bets will put a 1 percent sales tax measure over the top.

"There's something in it for everybody," said Robbie Mackinen, the county's economic development director and chairman of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority.

Whether Sanders' grand plan gets to a countywide vote depends on whether deals can be worked out first with the Kansas City Southern and Union Pacific railroads. They own the rights of way and most of the tracks that would be used.

Also uncertain are the costs, which aren't nailed down enough for Sanders to declare the plan affordable.

"If we can't get those two things done, then this isn't anything we would ever put on the ballot," he said.

But Sanders would not have worked as long and hard as he has and put his reputation at risk if he wasn't confident of reaching both goals and seeing the plan passed.

Proposal for commuter trains and trails

Commuter rail lines would link downtown with the eastern suburbs under a plan that could go before Jackson County voters sometime in 2013. A 1 percent sales tax would build and operate that system, along with new trail connections.



Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) are rail cars that are self-propelled — no locomotive engine is required. Using dual cab train set configurations, DMUs are capable of running in the reverse direction which eliminates the need for turnaround tracks.



“Mike Sanders is the first elected official in this community who has bet his life on the transit issue,” said rail advocate Kite Singleton.

Needs a full cent

Clearly, it won't be an easy sell, given the history of Kansas City rail transit proposals. Voters have considered nine of them over the last few decades and rejected all but two.

And both were quirky.

Take the recently approved streetcar sales and property tax package put forward by Mayor Sly James and the Kansas City Council. It won with more than 60 percent approval.

But then consider that it was decided by a few hundred downtown residents who cast mail-in ballots in an election that some said was less than democratic. The majority of those who will foot most of the \$100 million price are downtown property owners who live outside the taxing district and weren't allowed to vote.

Then there was Clay Chastain's light-rail plan in 2006. Out of eight citywide elections, only this plan got more than 50 percent approval. The secret? It called for no tax increase, shifting revenue from an already existing bus tax.

Partly because of that, the council later killed the plan.

So Sanders' proposal is in a whole other league, and therefore it's hard to predict how it might fare with voters.

The plan covers the whole county, not just Kansas City. It is multimodal, rather than rail only. And no one has ever asked the general electorate to approve more than a half-cent sales tax for rail transit.

Sanders' plan requires double that, though with his assurance that all the costs will be accounted for ahead of time so there will be no surprises.

"We think that the full cent would be necessary," he said, "and that's all that would be necessary."

A sales tax wasn't part of the initial plan outlined in October 2009. Sanders said then that he would try to convince federal officials to bankroll the full \$1 billion cost of the 144-mile system that would have crisscrossed the area and gone all the way to Kansas City International Airport.

A torrent of stimulus spending was just beginning to flow from D.C.

"All we're asking for is our share of that trillion dollars," Sanders said at the time.

It didn't come close to happening. Because of the area's low population density and policy changes out of Washington, it now appears that Jackson County rail won't qualify for many federal dollars, if any.

What the federal government did provide was several hundred thousand dollars to study three highway and railroad corridors.

Union Station out

The draft report released in November determined that the most bang for the buck would come from a combination of heavy railcars and buses along two of those corridors. (The third, along U.S. 71 and Interstate 49, is still under study.)

The project would be broken into two phases. The first would have heavy railcars ferry an estimated 1,150 to 2,800 passengers a day along the Kansas City Southern tracks between Oak Grove and the River Market. The existing tracks would need upgrades and additions, but not a lot.

Riders arriving downtown would transfer to buses or the new streetcar at Third and Main streets.

Most everyone agrees that the better connection would be at the other end of the streetcar line at Union Station. But the five railroads that own the tracks can't even agree on whether to conduct a study. So River Market it is. Other stops would be in Grain Valley, Blue Springs and Independence.

Also in that first phase, plans are to build a trail along the Rock Island right of way, connecting with the Katy Trail extension now being built between Pleasant Hill and Windsor, Mo.

Later, in the plan's second phase, tracks for commuter rail service would be laid alongside that trail. Added bus service figures in phases one and two.

The estimated construction cost is \$497 million to \$659 million. The annual operating cost is estimated to be \$15 million.

Selling the plan

If the package were rail alone, it would not have the broad appeal needed to win a countywide vote. So from a political standpoint, the multimodal approach makes sense.

After all, what's in it for the guy in Waldo who has no intention of ever riding the rails to eastern Jackson County?

“It’s everything from rail to bus service to trails to bikes,” Sanders said. “This is something that impacts all our lives and all of our quality of life.”

The economic benefits are another selling point. Sanders made the same point that Kansas City’s mayor drove home during the streetcar campaign. Cities without good public transit systems are likely to lose out when it comes to attracting the creative people who drive business innovation. They and aging baby boomers are less likely to want to spend time waiting in freeway traffic.

“Either we in Kansas City are going to be ready for that demographic shift or we’re going to fall further behind our sister communities who have these mass transit plans,” Sanders said.

It is a pitch he has made hundreds of times. He convinced every Jackson County city council to contribute toward a \$750,000 “education campaign” that promoted the benefits of public transit in TV ads.

“Preliminary indications are supportive of commuter rail in my community,” said Mayor Carson Ross of Blue Springs. “It will help spur economic development, as well as get people off the highways into trains.”

Mayor Randy Rhoads of Lee’s Summit also sees the benefits but is unsure how it would fare among voters who have no use for rails or trails.

“Is it enough to carry the issue?” he said. “I’m not sure.”

The Mid-America Regional Council has been in on the planning from even before the alternatives analysis began in 2011. MARC’s Tom Gerend said that so far the only opposition he has heard is from people who live along the southeastern route, where trains haven’t rolled for decades.

Then again, it’s early. Sanders knows there will be some pushback once a formal proposal is announced.

Already he has tried to squelch at least one potential pocket of opposition with a promise to downtown property owners. Should his plan pass, the countywide sales tax would negate the need to collect the streetcar sales tax. The county tax would foot the bill.

“There’s no double taxation,” he said. “That’s our goal at this point.”

Bill Dietrich, the president of the Downtown Council, said his members appreciate the offer and embrace the concept behind the streetcar and commuter rail, hoping that synergy would bring more economic activity to the central city.

“We get it,” he said. “The streetcar needs a regional system, and the regional system needs the streetcar.”

Will a majority of Jackson County voters see it that way? We may never know. Things look good now for an August election, Sanders says.

But he’s not fooling himself either. Should discussions with the railroads stall or break down to the point a vote would be pushed back until next fall or beyond, he said, “then I think this project is effectively dead.”

To reach Mike Hendricks, call 816-234-4738 or send email to mhendricks@kcstar.com.



History of Chess and LINC

LINC Chess is an example of how an involved community can change an entire school.

In 1999 at **Blenheim Caring Communities** a group known as Men on the Move started teaching children how to play chess. Early results were encouraging: better focus, fewer discipline issues and improved academic performance. One of those involved was **Lee Bohannon**, then a LINC volunteer, who had a passion for chess.

Since then, LINC has partnered with schools and libraries to host **tournaments** throughout the city and has established a **Chess University** to teach volunteers about the game in order to step into an instructional role at local LINC Caring Communities Sites.

How does it work?

The LINC Chess program is FREE for any student currently enrolled at a LINC Caring Communities site. All equipment, training, and tournaments are provided by the program.

LINC Chess runs September through May at LINC Caring Communities sites. Classes meet twice weekly - once with a LINC Chess trained instructor and once with their volunteer chess coach.

Three K-12 Tournaments are held each year for any chess student in the Kansas City area, as well as a K-12 All-Girls tournament. Each tournament participant is awarded a medal, and top school teams and individuals may receive additional awards.

Chess University

LINC Chess University was established to teach adults to play using the same methods taught in LINC Chess. Classes were originally developed to help LINC staff operate chess programs at sites, but are now open to adults who want to volunteer and parents who want to play with their student.

Instructors

The LINC Chess initiative is extremely important to LINC. We have hired well-qualified instructors to implement the Chess program for all students in the LINC program.

Why chess?

Chess encourages the following attributes which help students perform better in school and control their actions in moments of stress or anxiety.

Focus

Carefully observe and concentrate

Visualization

Predict and imagine a sequence of actions before it happens

Thinking Ahead

Think first, then act. Students are taught to ask, "If I do this, what might happen and how can I respond?"



Benefits of Chess

Improve self-esteem, concentration, and discipline

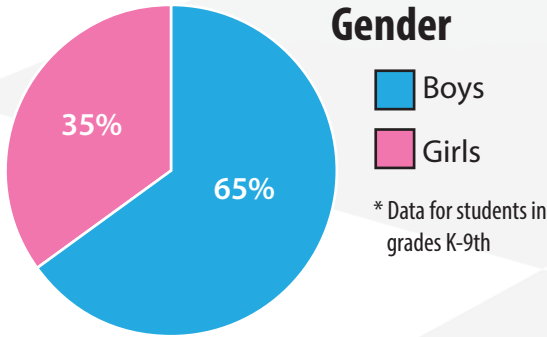
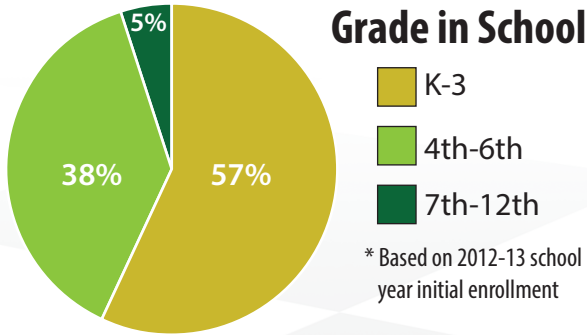
Improve academic achievement and logical thinking skills

Build and develop important life skills for excellence at school and adult life

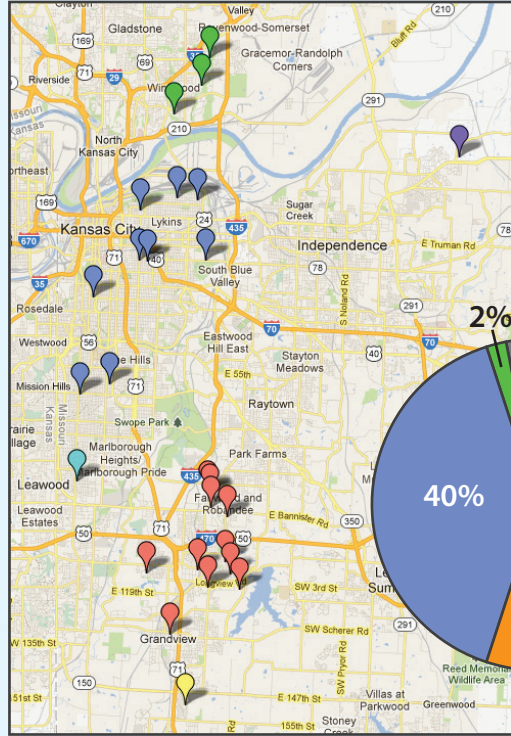
Parents are involved, supportive, and proud of their children's efforts and achievements

Since 2001, the LINC Chess program has helped over 2,500 students in more than 25 Kansas City area schools learn confidence, discipline, and higher-order thinking skills.

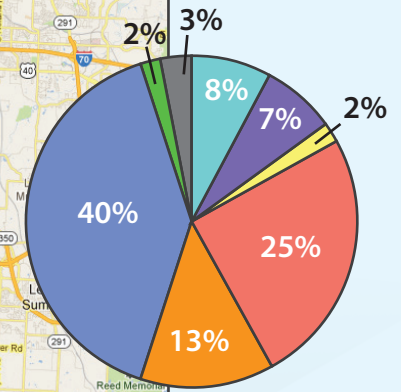
543 students
26 sites
6 districts



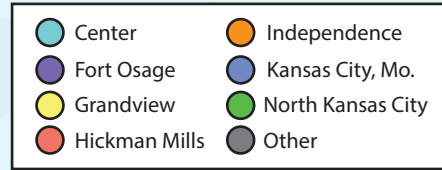
LINC Chess Sites as of Nov. 13, 2012



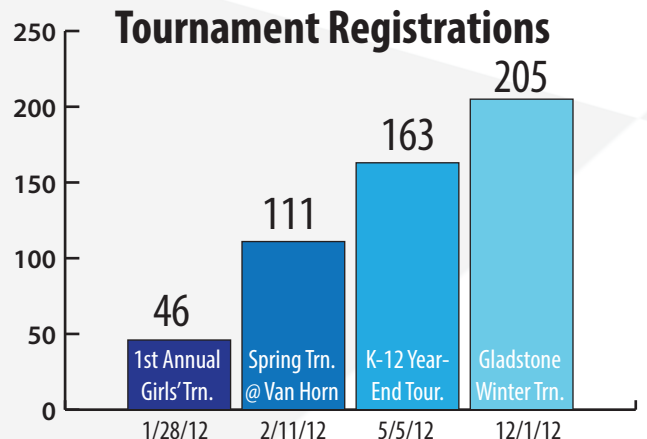
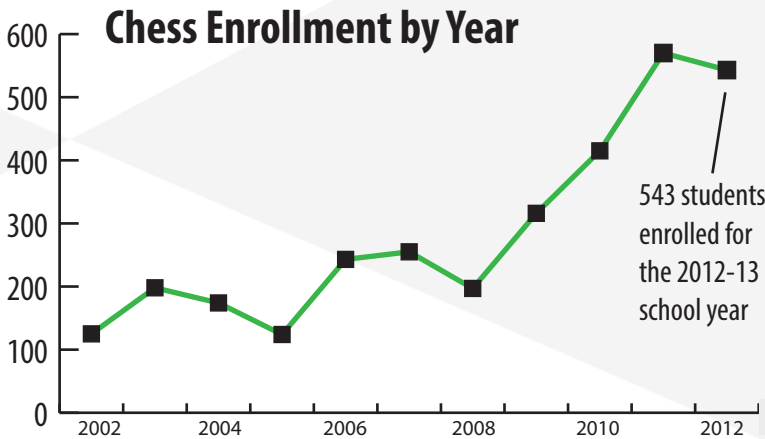
Registration by district at the K-12 Year-End Tournament (May 5, 2012)



The 2012 K-12 Year-End Tournament was the biggest LINC Chess tournament to date hosting 140 students from the Kansas City area.



LINC Chess has 320 followers at www.facebook.com/LINCchess



LINC Chess Tournaments, Spring 2013

For more information: [facebook.com/LINCchess](https://www.facebook.com/LINCchess) or call (816) 410-8435



Girls' Tournament

Saturday, Feb. 23

Border Star Montessori (63rd & Wornall)

North Kansas City K-12

Saturday, April 6

North Kansas City High School

620 East 23rd Avenue, N Kansas City, MO 64116



Year-End K-12 Tournament

Saturday, May 4

Hickman Mills Junior High

9000 Old Santa Fe Rd., Kansas City, MO 64134

Chess: The Best Move for Students

By Salome Thomas-EL

The next time President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan are sitting together discussing education reform, I hope that it will be across the table from one of my elementary or middle school students. If so, there will inevitably be a chessboard between them, and I am certain my students will win every match.

My inner-city students, many of whom come from some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Philadelphia and Wilmington, Del., have traveled the country to compete in, and win, local, state, and national chess championships. Gov. Jack Markel of Delaware and former Govs. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and Edward G. Rendell of Pennsylvania, all smart men, have challenged my students to chess matches and lost. A host of mayors, members of Congress, senators, and school superintendents—anyone brave enough to visit city schools and spend time with my students—all made the same mistake of taking them on, with similar results. These are the same children that most of society has forgotten. Yet they have gone on to attend magnet and private high schools, competitive colleges, and graduate and law schools.

Unfortunately, most of our nation's urban and rural students won't have the same opportunities as my chess players because, as a general rule, we don't teach our children to think critically or to think ahead. We don't teach them to use logic and reason or to consider rewards and consequences before they make decisions.

In the United States, we have become so focused on test scores that we have forgotten to teach our students to appreciate the process of learning, to embrace struggle, and to build self-efficacy and resilience.

“In the United States, we have become so focused on test scores that we have forgotten to teach our students to appreciate the process of learning, to embrace struggle, and to build self-efficacy and resilience.”

Students must learn that they are not born smart, but become smart through hard work and the process of growth. Chess can help establish that foundation for students as young as 5 and 6 years old, and it is simple enough to learn quickly. Students can use a few pieces, or all of them, as they gradually learn the game. Imagine young kindergartners or 1st and 2nd graders beginning to learn to anticipate moves, think ahead, and solve multi-step problems. All children need to learn how to make difficult and abstract decisions independently and think logically and efficiently. And teaching these skills to them at an early age can make a big difference to them as they progress through their education.

I have used chess as a teaching tool in the three schools where I have worked as a turnaround principal. In each instance, most of the students were city kids, poor and minority. My mission has been to teach the game of chess to every student I have known over my 25-year career.

My current school, Thomas Edison Charter, in Wilmington, Del., serves students in grades K-8, 96 percent of whom are living at or below the poverty level. Many of our students are seen as at risk of not meeting with academic success before entering our charter school, yet they excel, in part, because of our instructional curriculum and the support they receive from the administration, teachers, and staff.

But the success of our students is also a credit to our after-school chess program, which has had a tremendous impact on how our older students think and problem-solve.

This past school year, we received Delaware's Academic Achievement Award for closing the achievement gap in a high-poverty school, improving our state test scores, and moving those scores closer to the state average. In addition, this past summer, our 8th graders were recognized for scoring over 90 percent proficiency in math and 85 percent proficiency in English/language arts on our state tests.

A year ago, I met with my teachers, and we decided to give our 2nd and 3rd graders the opportunity to learn and benefit from chess with our First Move program. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are doing the same in our Algebra Through Chess course. In total, we have almost 100 students who participate in our after-school chess program every day.

It goes without saying that exposing children to academics in the classroom advances cognition; however, games like chess, played in the classroom, can foster memory, skill at planning and strategizing, and development of cognition. Much of the traditional U.S. curriculum in the early grades does not allow for students to learn and teach themselves. Chess permits students to think on their own without the assistance of adults.

Students exposed to chess are much more optimistic about overcoming obstacles and struggles on a regular basis. Research supports the idea that schools that establish innovative programs like chess playing develop high expectations for their students and the atmosphere in which their students can achieve them.

“...[S]chools that establish innovative programs like chess playing develop high expectations for their students and the atmosphere in which their students can achieve them.”

America has much to learn from the rest of the world regarding education. Countries as small as Armenia have made chess a mandatory school subject for children over the age of 6, with the goal of teaching strategic thinking to all elementary students. As an advocate for this course of instruction, the chess grandmaster and former world champion Gary Kasparov is challenging countries around the globe to adopt chess as part of their elementary curricula. Implementing chess in the U.S. curriculum could be the low-cost answer to many of our education woes.

So many young people are raised to question their intelligence. Chess helps shatter that doubt. Chess teaches our young people about rewards and consequences, both short- and long-term. It challenges young people to be responsible for their actions. It cuts across racial and economic lines and allows poor kids to excel at a game thought to be reserved for the affluent. It boosts self-confidence. It is the great equalizer.

When a school redefines its culture by building a vision and commitment that is innovative and creative, based on increasing self-efficacy and resilience, it has the power to serve as a protective shield for all students. It can become a beacon of light for impoverished communities.

I believe that all children are entitled to success in learning and life, regardless of their gender, race, or socioeconomic status.

Mr. President, it's your move.

Salome Thomas-EL is the principal of the Thomas Edison Charter School in Wilmington, Del., and the author of The Immortality of Influence: We Can Build the Best Minds of the Next Generation (Kensington Publishing, 2010).

Widely known as Principal EL, he is a national board member of America's Foundation for Chess, which is based in Bellevue, Wash.

Wanted: your opinion.

The Board of Directors of the Kansas City Public Schools will host four meetings in January 2013 to gather ideas from the public on the district's vision for teaching and learning. The areas covered include student achievement, community engagement, parent involvement, and leadership.

Meetings will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 22:** Garcia Elementary, 1000 W. 17th St.
- **Thursday, Jan. 24:** Border Star Montessori, 6321 Wornall Road.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 29:** Gladstone Elementary, 335 N. Elmwood Ave.
- **Thursday, Jan. 31:** Paseo Academy, 4747 Flora Ave.

Each meeting will include:

- Free child care
- A light meal
- Translation services in Spanish and Somali

KANSAS CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Participants will work in small groups led by a school board member. Each meeting is identical, and citizens may attend more than one.

Throughout January, patrons can also offer vital input via an online survey:

www.kcpublicschools.org/boardsurvey

In February, the school board will review the input and publish a report on its findings. The report will be placed on the board's webpage for additional public comment. Any policy revisions are also expected to be considered in February.

For more information contact your LINC Caring Communities site coordinator.



Sponsored by the Local Investment Commission (LINC)



Photos of Kansas City Public Schools community meeting on Tues., Jan. 22, 2013 at Primitivo Garcia Elementary.

2013 Jackson County

SPELLING BEE

2/2/13 Mid-Continent Public Library Division Bee

2/9/13 Kansas City Public Library Division Bee

2/23/13 Jackson County Championship Bee

LINC is proud to sponsor the **2013 Jackson County Spelling Bee** alongside its partners, the **Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City Federation of Teachers**, and the **Mid-Continent Public Library**.

The event brings together students from Jackson County to compete for the honor of representing the county at the **Scripps National Spelling Bee** in Washington, D.C. this spring.

Several LINC Caring Communities sites are participating and helped to organize their school bees.

www.kclinc.org/SpellingBee



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