

LINC Commission Meeting

November 16, 2020



Cornerstone laying, Y.M.C.A., Kansas City, Mo., 1914

Kansas City Black History

The African American story of history, culture and art in our community.

The Black Archives of Kansas City, The Kansas City Public Library and LINC are proud to announce a new 44-page booklet compiling the stories of more than 70 influential figures honored over the past ten years — with new essays from Mayor Quinton Lucas and other contemporary voices.

Printed copies will be available in early December of 2020.



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, Nov. 16th, 2020 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Online Meeting

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. October 2020 minutes (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. LINC Finance Committee**
 - a. Audit**
 - b. 990**
- V. Caring Communities Update**
 - a. Supporting Families**
 - b. School Reopenings**
- VI. Hickman Mills**
 - a. Attendance Project**
- VII. Leadership Update**
- VIII. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – OCTOBER 5, 2020

The Local Investment Commission met online via Zoom. Chair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
David Disney
Mark Flaherty
SuEllen Fried

Rob Givens
Anita Gorman
Tom Lewin
Ken Powell
Marge Randle
Marj Williams

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020, LINC Commission meeting was approved unanimously.

Superintendents Reports

- **Yolanda Cargile**, Superintendent (Center School District), reported after starting the school year virtually the district introduced some in-person school on Sept. 8 and is now planning the next phase of in-person learning. Since March more than 128,000 free meals have been provided to students through the USDA in partnership with Sodexo. All students have been provided one-on-one devices so they can access online instruction. Virtual homecoming was held Sept. 14-18. The district received funding to continue real-world learning. Bond projects are underway, with the new Indian Creek Elementary expected to open next fall.
- **Joana King**, Assistant Superintendent (Grandview School District) reported the school year began all-virtual learning on Sept. 8 following two-week intensive professional development for teachers. Students pre-K to 2nd grade are doing hybrid learning now, grades 3-5 return next week, followed by grades 6-8. The district will also provide in-person learning for at-risk high school students – those not participating in online learning, as well as ESL and special ed. District purchased ultraviolet disinfecting system to clean out classrooms. LINC staff have been helping reach out to families to help with access to online learning.
- **Terry Ward**, School Board Member (North Kansas City School District) reported the school year began Sept. 8 with a full-time K-5 program and hybrid program for higher grades. All student devices were replaced over the summer; the district continues providing access points. Football games are being held with limited attendance. An updated Covid dashboard is posted every Friday; so far seeing no transfer of infection within schools. Eight students have been selected as National Merit Scholars. An early childhood center with capacity for 1,200 three- and four-year-olds is being developed as part of a June bond issue.
- **Christy Harrison**, Director of Extended Learning (Kansas City Public Schools) reported the district is developing a dashboard for Covid cases and preparing for the possibility of opening schools to in-person learning. The district has provided technology for all students and hotspots for all families. LINC has supported families of students who haven't been engaging in online learning.
- **Donna Peyton**, Executive Assistant (Hickman Mills School District) reported 97.4% of students have enrolled. The school year began all-virtual, and the Oct. 15 board meeting will discuss whether to return hybrid second quarter or remain all-virtual.

Janet Miles-Bartee, Caring Communities Director, introduced a report by site coordinators on LINC's efforts to support children, families and school district partners during the pandemic by providing support for on-line learning, technology and food distribution, and other supports.

- **Jason Ervin** (Grandview Middle): Relationships with families made it easier to support them in keeping focused on online learning. After George Floyd murder, LINC organized a learning experience for young men and community police officers to discuss police brutality, their fears, and their rights.
- **Steve McClellan** (Cler-Mont Elementary): Efforts in Fort Osage are focused on feeding families because more people are homeless and hungry as a result of Covid.
- **Yolanda Robinson** (Faxon Elementary): Efforts include partnering with Healing Pathways to work with families who have lost loved ones due to violence; reaching out to families of students with challenges attending on-line learning; partnering with Raytown Reap to help families with food, hygiene items, etc.; and using social media to build the Faxon community.
- **Shelley Taylor-Doran** (Border Star Montessori): LINC afterschool activities providers are offering virtual programming. Girls on the Run coaches present a creative, engaging curriculum using Microsoft Teams twice a week; the program is making new running shoes available to girls and providing food boxes to families. Mad Science and Kansas City Young Audiences also offer virtual programming.
- **Deanna Snider** (Carver Elementary): LINC is coordinating with teachers to support families, going on home visits to help distribute masks and learning packets, typing up student schedules and providing food for families. LINC is planning a book distribution later this month.
- **Darryl Bush** (King Elementary): LINC developed a voter registration effort in response to protests on the Plaza following the George Floyd murder. The effort emphasizes the importance of local races and issues like the school board and prosecutors, and is working with schools to get high school seniors registered and with neighborhood associations to provide transportation to polls.

Deputy Director Brent **Schondelmeyer** reported LINC collaborated with Harvesters, United Way, and League of Women Voters on a recent voter registration event at Arrowhead Stadium, which will also be used as a polling place for Kansas City residents. A video of the event was shown.

A moment of silence was observed for Rosemary Lowe and Bailus Tate. A memorial video was shown.

Jack Craft and **Gayle Hobbs** introduced a discussion of developing the LINC board. Issues discussed included the need for transitional leadership to deal with pressing issues, adding a diverse blend of new Commissioners, and convening the Executive Committee to come up with plans to present to the Commission.

Schondelmeyer reported LINC is working with Kansas City Public Library and Black Archives of Mid-America on a ten-year anniversary Kansas City Black History booklet, which will include features on Rosemary Lowe and Bailus Tate as well as essays by local writers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Hickman Mills' campaign against chronic absence sets up pandemic success

October 28, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



Hedy Chang of Attendance Works addresses the Hickman Mills School District's attendance teams in a workshop at the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

The jarring pandemic threw a switch that sent the Hickman Mills School District's campaign against chronic absence down a whole new — and unfamiliar — track.

The relationships that the district's school attendance teams built with families during the fall of 2019 had to carry on in Covid's isolating world in the spring. And still now in the 2020-2021 school year.

It's been a difficult ride. But new data shows it's been successful — first in the notable gains made in improving attendance among the targeted student audience before the pandemic hit, and then in the connections the attendance teams have been able to maintain, keeping children engaged during these months of remote learning.

The national non-profit [Attendance Works](#) is guiding the district's efforts, and a host of community partners are helping support the program, including [LINC](#), [the United Way](#), [Turn the Page KC](#), [SchoolSmartKC](#) and consultant Kia Turner, CEO of Red Apple Education.

LINC site coordinators with the before- and after-school programs at each of the schools have been part of the attendance teams, which also include school administrators, counselors and families-school liaisons.

The value of strong relationships

Attendance Works reported on the Hickman Mills success in a blog post, saying that district and school leaders “responded quickly and effectively when (the schools) abruptly closed their doors and moved to distance learning.”

Early on, Attendance Works reported, teachers reached out to families, and school attendance teams provided addi-

tional support when teacher outreach was insufficient or existing attendance data suggested a more intensive approach was needed.

By April, the school district was in touch with 97% of its students and their families and had only lost touch with 3% of its students, which is half of what teachers [reported nationally](#). This high level of family engagement reflects strong relationships and practices put in place over the last year through the launch of a year-long initiative to reduce chronic absence.

“Hickman Mills’ readiness and ability to adapt to distance learning when schools closed for Covid-19 reflects the mindset, capacity and skills emphasized and reinforced by our year-long initiative to reduce chronic absence,” Hickman Mills Deputy Superintendent Carl Skinner told Attendance Works. “This work promoted taking a positive, problem-solving approach to working with families rather than assuming absences are an indication that families don’t care about their children’s education.”

Demonstrable improvement

LINC gathered and analyzed attendance data for the 2019-2020 school year up until the closure for the pandemic and compared the results with the corresponding number of months from the previous school year.

The data measured the attendance of students targeted by the program who were classified as “moderately chronic absent” and recorded how their attendance changed from Year 1 to Year 2.

Key findings included:

- There was a demonstrable improvement in student attendance. There were 451 students (76.1%) whose attendance improved and 141 students (23.8%) whose attendance declined.
- The overall improvement in student attendance moved 365 students (61.6%) from “moderately chronic absent” (Tier 2) to “good” (Tier 1)
- Improvement of student attendance was generally greater among elementary schools, though the middle school also showed improvement.



[Home](#) > [Hickman Mills Attendance Project](#)

This page provides details about a student attendance initiative in the Hickman Mills School District — an urban school district in Kansas City, Mo. area. To learn more about this collaborative project read the blog from AttendanceWorks, which provides training and technical support to the initiative.

Methodology and Findings

Methodology

The analysis took student attendance data from the Hickman Mills School District student information system (Infinite Campus) for school years 2018-19 and 2019-20.

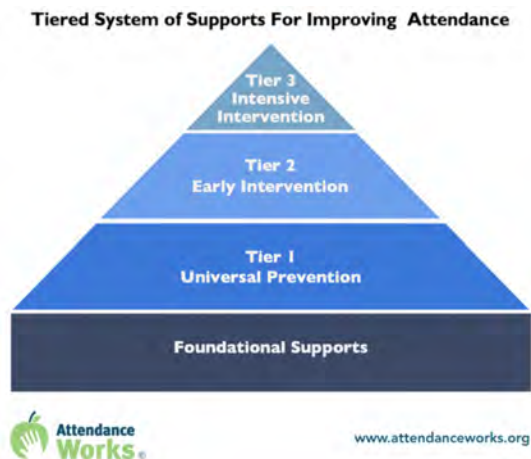
Students who were identified as “moderately chronic absent” in Year 1 (SY 18-19) were then tracked to see if their attendance improved or declined in Year 2 (SY 19-20). “Moderately chronic absent” are students who miss between 10-19% of schools days.

The student data match was done using MOSIS ID (Missouri Student Information System) – the unique student identifier given to each Missouri school student.

Only “moderately chronic absent” students were included in the analysis because these students were the focus of the intervention by the school attendance teams.

Only “moderately chronic absent” students attending both Year 1 and Year 2 were included in the analysis. There were 603 students who were “moderately chronic absent” in Year 1. Of those Year 1 students, 592 were in attendance in Hickman Mills during Year 2 following the data match.

Note the Year 2 in-person school year was abruptly curtailed because of COVID-19. Recognizing the importance of comparing attendance for similar time periods, our analysis only included data from the first 120 days of in-person attendance for Year 1 and Year 2 to avoid skewing the analysis.



AttendanceWorks - Three Tiers of Intervention

Findings

These findings relate specifically to “moderately chronic absent” students identified in Year 1 and how their attendance changed (improved/declined) in Year 2.

Finding 1: There was a demonstrable improvement in student attendance. There were 451 students (76.1%) whose attendance improved and 141 students (23.8%) whose attendance declined.

Improved Attendance: The students had an average of 6.6 days of improved attendance or 2,967 additional days.

Declined Attendance: The students had an average of 14.5 days additional days missed or 2,039 days.

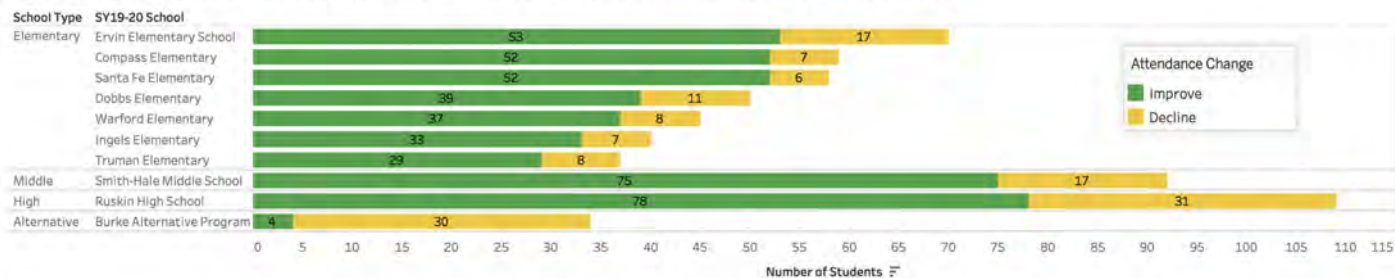
Finding 2: The overall improvement in student attendance moved 365 students (61.6%) from “moderately chronic absent” (Tier 2) to “good” (Tier 1)

Finding 3: Improvement of student attendance was generally greater among elementary schools, though the middle school also showed improvement.

Supporting Data

The following charts and tables show detailed data at the building level grouped by school type (elementary, middle, high school and alternative)

Attendance Changes for Moderately Absent Students from SY18-19 - Hickman Mills School District



Attendance Changes for Moderately Absent Students from SY18-19 - Hickman Mills School District

School Type	SY19-20 School	Attendance Status	Number of Students	Days Missed SY18-19	Days Missed SY19-20	Days Improved/Declined	Avg. Days Improved/Declined
Elementary	Ervin Elementary School	Improve	53	712	358	354	6.6
		Decline	17	256	407	-151	-7.6
	Compass Elementary	Improve	52	758	409	349	6.2
		Decline	7	116	155	-39	-5.6
	Santa Fe Elementary	Improve	52	681	281	400	7.7
		Decline	6	88	133	-45	-7.5
	Dobbs Elementary	Improve	39	582	230	352	9.0
		Decline	11	152	211	-59	-5.4
	Warford Elementary	Improve	37	473	246	227	6.1
		Decline	8	132	222	-90	-9.0
	Ingels Elementary	Improve	33	460	256	204	6.0
		Decline	7	82	153	-71	-10.1
	Truman Elementary	Improve	29	463	197	266	8.6
		Decline	8	105	165	-60	-7.5
Middle	Smith-Hale Middle School	Improve	75	834	386	448	5.9
		Decline	17	246	467	-221	-12.3
High	Ruskin High School	Improve	78	870	528	342	4.4
		Decline	31	338	815	-477	-15.4
Alternative	Burke Alternative Program	Improve	4	34	9	25	5.0
		Decline	30	425	1,251	-826	-27.5

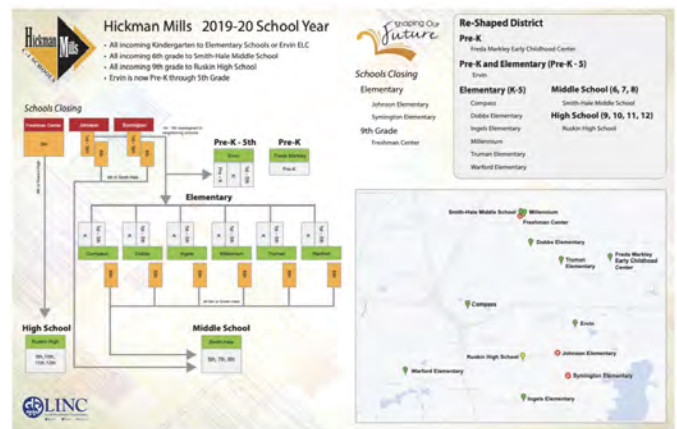
Attendance Changes for Moderately Absent Students from SY18-19

School Type	SY19-20 School	Number of Students	Days Improved Total	Avg. Days Improved/Declined
Elementary	Compass Elementary	59	310	4.9
	Dobbs Elementary	50	293	5.9
	Ervin Elementary School	70	203	2.7
	Ingels Elementary	40	133	3.2
	Santa Fe Elementary	58	355	6.1
	Truman Elementary	37	206	5.3
	Warford Elementary	45	137	2.9
Middle	Smith-Hale Middle School	92	227	2.4
High	Ruskin High School	109	-135	-1.2
Alternative	Burke Alternative Program	34	-801	-22.9

Limitations of the Findings

Limitation 1: The finding about attendance in upper grades may need to be qualified. Calculations on student attendance for upper grades is tracked by class period, complicating the analysis. Also the attendance for Burke Alternative skews results.

Limitation 2: During the two-year period, the Hickman Mills School District closed some schools and reconfigured grade levels (see graphic, right). These changes were not taken specifically into account in the analysis, though they should have little bearing on whether attendance improved overall within the district.



Hickman Mills School Reconfiguration, 2019-20 School Year

Seizing the moment: A decade of stories, two centuries of Black lives to be celebrated

October 21, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



This fall the annual Black History project rises to this auspicious moment in history.

For a full decade, the partnership between the [Kansas City Public Library](#), the [Black Archives of Mid-America](#) and LINC has been [gathering the stories](#) of Kansas City's great men and women who forever shaped our city and our nation.

The history materials, which have been [distributed for free by the thousands](#) into schools, libraries, homes and community centers, warrant a meaningful pause to take them all in.

And now's the time.

The project has passed its 10th anniversary as Missouri celebrates its bicentennial — both arriving as the Black Lives Matter movement has become a national call for racial justice.

In commemoration of all three, the Black History project will debut a free 44-page book this fall compiling the stories of more than 70 influential figures honored over the past ten years — with new essays from Mayor Quinton Lucas and other contemporary voices.

Since education has always been a primary goal of the project, historians and educators are crafting lesson plans to accompany the history as part of an interactive web site that will be adding new materials into 2021.



Shake it up! Lights On Afterschool finds a new groove

November 5, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



LINC staff and a student drill team dance outside Indian Creek Elementary School in Center.

No more was the pandemic going to hold back what LINC and its communities yearned to give and share.

The fall weather came cool and clear, and LINC’s annual Lights On Afterschool events went outside to find a rush of parents, teachers and children ready to join the fun.

“It was like a waterfall,” LINC Caring Communities Site Coordinator John Herrera said of the response when he asked for volunteers to help a drive-through trunk or treat at Boone Elementary in the Center School District.

“People were saying, ‘Yes! Yes! Yes!’”

No doubt the separation during Covid-19 has everyone aching to get together again, and the safely-spaced, masked, outdoor drive-through party at Center’s Indian Creek Elementary School also felt the joy — complete with a raucous Halloween soundtrack.

“There definitely was some great energy,” said Carl Wade, LINC’s site coordinator at Indian Creek. “We had the youth out there dancing, moving and grooving. It felt good all the way around.”

Several of the Lights On events gave LINC a chance to share free books for every child who passed through, plus family resource information — and of course treats for the children, many of them dressed in their Halloween costumes for the ride.

The support LINC received from Indian Creek’s administration and staff — some of whom joined in the curbside celebration — was invigorating, Wade said.

Boone’s staff and parents came out as well to add to the line of decorat-



A “ladybug” enjoys the LINC party at Indian Creek Elementary School in Center.

ed cars and booty of treats, said Herrera.

“The kids were just tickled,” he said. “Everybody’s been so overwhelmed . . . We could reach out to parents to say, ‘Hey, what can we do to help?’ and make everyone feel welcome and happy. That was it — *happy*.”

For some LINC sites, their school parking lots weren’t available, but that just called for some creativity.

The Faxon Elementary School team, with donated and purchased treats and books to give out, took its show on the road, said LINC’s site coordinator Yolanda Robinson, and turned trunk and treat into a door-to-door visit to LINC’s families.

They took safety precautions. Robinson called ahead and the parents and the children stepped outside for the mini-reunions.

“I had a great day to be able to see students’ eyes light up,” Robinson said. It had been so many months that it was surprising to see how the children had grown. She stood shoulder-to-shoulder with some, laughing at how they were almost as tall as her.

“It gave me a glimpse of what we’ve all been missing — our relationships with our families,” Robinson said. “It brings a great feeling to my heart that there’s still hope, and there are still ways to be creative and innovative in this time of social distancing.”

When LINC’s Lights On event plans at Border Star Elementary in Kansas City had to find an off-campus site, Site Coordinator Shelley Taylor-Doran called on neighboring St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, which lent a parking lot.

And LINC, in partnership with Border Star’s PTA, set up a volunteer line of parents and teachers to treat and entertain the more than 200 children in some 100 cars that came through.

“I’m used to being around 200 to 300 people a day,” Taylor-Doran said, remembering what it was like to be in a full school building. The teachers who helped — and the Border Star families — like LINC’s site coordinator “are missing that,” she said.

It was, she said, “a beautiful day” for “a reunion.”



Door-to-door “trunk and treat” fun delights one of Faxon Elementary School’s LINC families in Kansas City.



LINC’s treat and books bags go out to children in the car line at Boone Elementary in Center.



Blue-haired fun in the car line at Center Elementary School.

Voting at Arrowhead: 'Our responsibility' (and we 'love the Chiefs!')

November 3, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



A wheelchair was coming for Omar Ferrell, so he and his daughter, “Miss” Price, took a moment outside the Kansas City Chiefs’ Arrowhead Stadium to pause and soak in this electric moment in their voting lives.

“It is our responsibility to vote,” Price said, agreeing with her 66-year-old father. But she could hear the drum corps in the distance stirring the fast-moving line of voters. She could see the Chiefs cheerleaders shaking their pompoms.

A giant bowl of blue sky and crisp autumn air seemed capable of bringing the statue of Chiefs founder Lamar Hunt to life.

Yes, they were here out of a powerful obligation, Price said, “and . . . I love the Chiefs stadium!”

This was the vision Chiefs stars Patrick Mahomes, Tyrann Mathieu and others imagined when they pressed the Chiefs and the NFL to [make the stadium a voting site](#) as part of a civic response to the uprising of the Black Lives Matter movement [after the death of George Floyd](#).

The Chiefs and the 15 and the Mahomies Foundation [split a \\$100,000 price tag](#) to bring voting machines into the stadium’s North Club.

This was the second major event of the election season involving Arrowhead. On Sept. 29, LINC, the United Way and the League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson, Clay and



Omar Ferrell and his daughter, “Miss” Price, wait to vote.

Platte Counties teamed up with Harvesters, the Chiefs, and the Royals [to bring hundreds of people to the sports complex](#) to register to vote and take home boxes of food.

The Election Day event was an obvious second act.

Paul Losenski, 32, came with his 2-year-old daughter Louise to vote, in part, he said, because he admired the conviction of the Chiefs' quarterback and his teammates.

"Patrick Mahomes was being an advocate . . . stepping outside the lines . . . to do something for the citizens of Kansas City," Losenski said. "Saying, 'Hey, come out and vote. It's a great opportunity and let's make it happen.'"

Because the voting site has to be maintained by the Kansas City Election Board, voting at Arrowhead is an option only for any registered Jackson County voters who live in the Kansas City municipal boundaries of the county.

Crowds lined up in the opening hours at 6 a.m., some of the campaigners outside the stadium said, but by mid-morning the operation was moving a steady stream of voters quickly through the process.

"It was fast, easy and convenient," said Rochelle Graham, 47. "There was no waiting in line. I thank the Chiefs for the opportunity."

Polls in Missouri are open until 7 p.m. Election night.



Paul Losenski and daughter, Louise.



Rochelle Graham poses after casting her vote.

How many \$ millions does KCPS lose in tax abatements? District wants you to know

October 22, 2020

By Joe Robertson/LINC Writer



The short answer?

\$80 million in potential tax revenue to the Kansas City Public Schools and more than 20 public charter schools has been diverted by tax abatement incentives to developers the past three years.

But KCPS acknowledges that the questions behind the city's decisions to give tax breaks are complicated, and the district has [created a web page](#) to help defend its community against excessive tax incentives.

"Tax incentives can be a valuable tool for cities and states to attract and grow businesses and to promote redevelopment in distressed neighborhoods," the district's page reads. "However, without proper controls and oversights, they can also be harmful to communities due to the loss of potential public revenues."

KCPS bears far more abated tax abatement per student than any other Kansas City districts, and the majority of the benefits in KCPS boundaries boost projects that are not in economically stressed areas.

"KCPS currently has \$400 million of deferred maintenance," the district notes. "We cannot afford to over-incentivize private development."

The district is working with neighboring districts that also have concerns about the abatement process and the [Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City](#) has issued [recommendations to reform tax incentives in Kansas City](#).

The proposals list ways that the school districts believe will make the abatements process more consistent, equitable and directed to more faithfully boost areas of economic need.

**KCPS BUILDINGS NEED
\$400 MILLION
OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**



**TAX INCENTIVES ABATED
\$80 MILLION
FROM KCPS+CHARTERS
IN THE LAST 3 YEARS**



Go to KCPS' Tax Incentives page:
kcpublicschools.org/about/tax-incentives-kcps

CSDGKC Incentive Reform Recommendations

Context:

- In 2019, more than \$45 million abated/redirected from local school districts by KCMO (per City GASB 77 report)
- KCMO offers longer terms (up to 25 years) and at higher levels (up to 75-100%) than most peer communities
- Benchmarking Examples: Kansas, Ohio, Louisiana, California, Minnesota, Alabama, St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis, Tulsa, San Antonio, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Omaha, Des Moines

Key Areas of Concern:

- School districts and TJs rely more heavily on property taxes than the City yet have no authority over the decisions to divert/abate their property taxes. For many incentive programs, appointed boards have authority to grant up to 25 years of abatement without any support from the affected school district/TJs
- Many projects have been granted longer and deeper incentives without demonstrating any significant policy objective/benefit to the City and TJs
- Not all school districts/TJs receive timely notice of incentive plans/projects across all agencies
- While all KCMO school districts have concerns about the level of abatements granted by KCMO, districts serving high needs students experience the highest abatement levels per student

Reform Recommendations:

Key Principle: School Districts and TJs Should be Partners in All Economic Development Decision-Making that Impacts Their Revenues

- 1. Longer/Deeper Incentives Should Have Buy-in From School Districts and Non-City Taxing Jurisdictions**
 - Authorize that school districts/TJs would have opt-in authority for any project seeking longer/deeper incentives (in excess of 10 years @ 50%)
 - Monitor development agreements and establish accountability measures to fulfill commitments
 - Preserve authority of City Council to override school district/TJs with a two-thirds supermajority vote
 - Exempt continuously distressed census tracts (i.e., Eastside)
 - Cover no more than 20% of project costs with public incentives
- 2. Ensure Consistent and Equitable Process for All School Districts**
 - Require universal application for all incentive programs (plans and projects)
 - Give notice to school districts/TJs upon submittal of universal application (for plans/amendments/projects) so their input that can be factored into 3rd party analysis, staff recommendations and plan documents
 - CSDGKC members are open to a streamlined process for projects requesting 10 years @ 50% or less with the understanding that not all projects warrant incentives. Projects should provide public benefit, still meet but-for requirements, and require early review/input of affected taxing entities
- 3. Reforms Should Apply to All Incentive Programs**
 - Expand the ordinance to include both real and personal property taxes
 - Sunset all grandfathered projects that have not been initiated
 - Apply caps/reforms to all new projects/plans and any amendments to existing agreements/plans that have a fiscal impact to the affected taxing jurisdictions in all incentive programs

CSDGKC Reform Recommendations (continued):

4. Implement Targeted Efforts to Address Barriers to Eastside Development

- Continue to exempt Eastside projects from Lucas Ordinance caps and opt-in requirement
- Streamline but-for analysis and blight study for Eastside projects
- Implement proactive single family URA Plan for Eastside neighborhoods
- Create strategies to address additional barriers to eastside development (e.g., development fund)

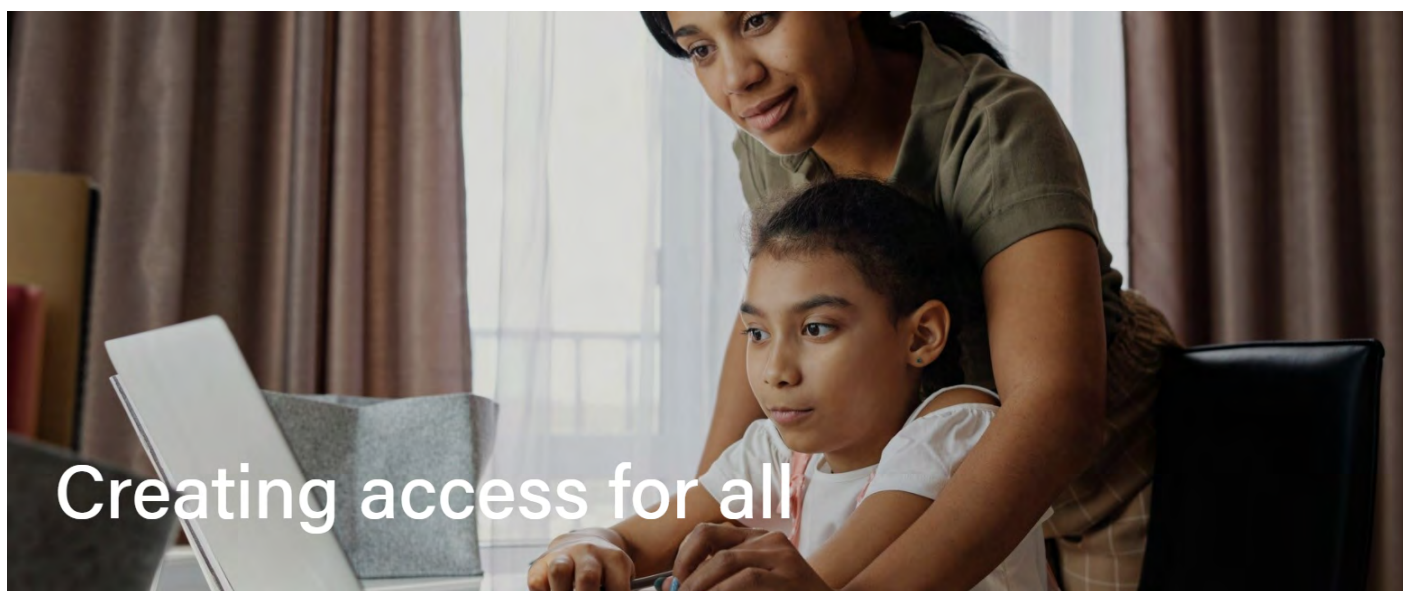
Proposed Opt-in Language:

For new plans/plan amendments/development agreements that are approved by the City Council: “The City Council shall not enact a resolution or ordinance for the creation of any new or amended development plan, redevelopment plan, cooperative agreement or development agreement that would allow for the abatement, exemption or redirection of ad valorem real and personal property taxes in excess of 10 years @ 50% from an affected taxing jurisdiction unless the chief executive, governing body, or designee of the affected taxing jurisdiction submits a resolution or written approval for exceeding that threshold at or prior to the hearing, or the City Council passes an approving resolution by a two-thirds super-majority vote after a public hearing that allows for public testimony from the affected taxing jurisdictions.”

For projects in existing plan areas that do not require approval by the City Council: “In the course of considering a request for any ad valorem real and personal property tax abatement, exemption or redirection, the City Council recommends that the economic development agencies shall not approve the abatement, exemption or redirection of ad valorem real and personal property taxes in excess of 10 years @ 50% from an affected taxing jurisdiction unless the chief executive, governing body, or designee of the affected taxing jurisdiction submits a resolution or written approval for exceeding that threshold at or prior to the hearing, or the City Council passes a resolution by a two-thirds super-majority vote after a public hearing that allows for public testimony from the affected taxing jurisdictions.”



Relief fund can help many households get internet access



Creating access for all

Good, high-speed internet access is more important now than ever for work, school, or just to stay in touch with friends and family, but it can be hard to fit in your budget. The Internet Access Support Program [can help](#).



This program is open to people who live in the greater KC region. It can help people of all ages:

- Find affordable internet service
- Pay off an old balance
- Get caught up on your current internet service
- Pay for internet service for six months

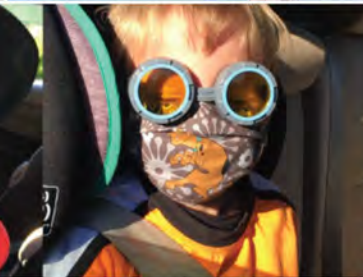
The program is only open to households with limited incomes. To qualify, you need to earn less than the program limits. Help is first come, first served, and funds are limited. Other restrictions may apply.

The funds are being administered by Mid America Assistance Coalition.

Apply at: kconnect.me

To apply, go to:

kconnect.me



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