

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

Workshop Special Board of Education Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

Board of Education Room, District Office, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223

MISSION STATEMENT

Cultivating lifelong learners prepared to navigate their future with purpose.

A. OPENING ITEMS.

- 1. Call the Meeting to Order.**
- 2. Approve the Agenda.**

B. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- 1. Review the Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda.**
- 2. CTE / Career Ready Planning Program Update.**
- 3. Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) Data Update.**
- 4. Transportation Update.**
- 5. Discuss Legislative Platform.**

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 1. Enter into Executive Session.**

Executive Sessions are conducted in accordance with Kansas law (K.S.A. 75-4319). No binding action shall be taken during an executive session; however, action may be considered when board members return to the open session.

- 2. Enter into Executive Session.**

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- 3. Enter into Executive Session.**

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D. CLOSING ITEMS.

- 1. Adjournment.**

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, October 13, 2025, 5:30 PM

Board of Education Room, District Office, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223

MISSION STATEMENT

Cultivating lifelong learners prepared to navigate their future with purpose.

A. OPENING ITEMS.

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 2. Awards and Recognitions.**
- 3. Public Comments.**

B. REGULAR AGENDA.

- 1. Call the Meeting to Order.**
- 2. Approval of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda.**

C. CONSENT AGENDA.

- 1. Approval of the Consent Agenda.**
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Approval of the Cash Summary Report.**
- 4. Approval of the Bids and Contracts.**
- 5. Approval of the Human Resources Personnel Report and the Addendum.**
- 6. Approval of the Claims Report and the Disbursement Report.**
- 7. Adoption of the Resolution for Destruction of Records.**
- 8. Approval of the Blue Valley Recreation Center Northwest Commissioner Appointment.**
- 9. Approval of the Board Advisory Committee Appointments.**
- 10. Approval of the Termination and Release of Sanitary Sewer Construction and Development Agreement.**
- 11. Approval of the Termination and Release of Street Construction and Development Agreement.**

D. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- 1. Board of Education Reports.**
- 2. Superintendent Report.**
- 3. Strategic Plan Quarterly Update.**
- 4. Design and Construction Report.**
- 5. Policy 6610 Temporary and Personal Illness Leaves Update.**

E. ACTION ITEMS.

- 1. Adoption of the Bond Sale Resolution 2025-AB.**

F. CLOSING ITEMS.

- 1. Board Comments.**
- 2. Adjournment.**



**PREPARING
BLUE VALLEY
STUDENTS
FOR LIFE AFTER
GRADUATION**

Board of Education
October 13, 2025



INTENTIONS FOR TODAY

- Provide an overview of the Career Ready Programming evaluation as part of '25-'26 district goals related to the Strategic Plan.
- Understand current Blue Valley opportunities:
 - Professions Based Learning
 - Career Ready Programming
 - Career Technical Education
 - Dual Credit & Advanced Placement
 - Kansas guidelines impacting the above



ADVANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES

2025 – 2026 District Goals:

Respond to enrollment and Career Ready Program needs by analyzing and recommending potential facility needs for multiple pathways in order to centralize and maximize district programming.

Analyze district transportation opportunities to increase student access to CAPS and all Career Ready Programming opportunities.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Blue Valley Career Ready Programs provide learners with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare for careers and college; our partnerships provide opportunities for real-world learning experiences and achievements, including diplomas, degrees, and industry recognized certifications.



THE CRP UMBRELLA

**CTE
Courses
in BV**

**CTE
Courses
at JCCC**

**Dual
Degree
Program
at JCCC**

**Fire
Science
Program
at OPFD**

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



- CRP at Johnson County Community College began in Blue Valley during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Implemented to take advantage of a great local asset: Johnson County Community College.
- In 2019-2020, we had 21 students in three programs: Dual Degree, Construction Management, and Automotive Technology.
- **In 2025-2026, over 170 students are enrolled in 11 different programs.**

STUDENTS TAKING COURSES AT JCCC

2019-20: 21 students

2020-21: 40 students

2021-22: 85 students

2022-23: 132 students

2023-24: 145 students

2024-25: 168 students

2025-26: 173 students

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



CURRENT PROGRAM OPTIONS WITH JCCC

- Automotive Technology, Automation Engineering Technology, Culinary and Hospitality Management, Cybersecurity, Electrical Technology, Electronics Technology, HVAC, Plumbing Technology, Welding and Metal Fabrication
- **27 students earned an Industry Recognized Credential in May of 2025.**
- Students attend home HS ½ day, JCCC ½ day
- Free to BV students and families

BV/JCCC DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM

Students can earn their high school diploma, associate degree, and fulfill ALL of the general education requirements of a Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) university and other 4-year universities.

- Students attend JCCC full-time
- Average 15 credit hours each semester
- Free for Blue Valley students and families.
- Year 1 (19-20): 10 students
- Year 2 (20-21): 14
- Year 3 (21-22): 32
- Year 4 (22-23): 51
- Year 5 (23-24): 66
- Year 6 (24-25): 89
- **Year 7 (25-26): 114**



21 students graduated in May of 2025 with Blue Valley diploma and associate degree from JCCC.



- Collaboration with OPFD and JCCC
- Class is held at OPFD FTC w/ OPFD personnel
- Year 5 Implementation
 - Year 1 (21-22): 15 students
 - Year 2 (22-23): 23 students
 - Year 3 (23-24): 22 students
 - Year 4 (24-25): 19 students
 - **Year 5 (25-26): 18 students**
- **Four graduates of the BV/OPFD Fire Science program are now full-time firefighters at OPFD.**

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



- **11 Career Pathways offered in Blue Valley:**
 - Business Management and Entrepreneurship
 - Construction and Design
 - Emergency and Fire Management Services
 - Engineering and Applied Mathematics
 - Health Science
 - Marketing
 - Media and Design Communications (Journalism, Graphic Design)
 - Mobile Equipment Maintenance
 - Programming and Software Development
 - Restaurant and Event Management
 - Teaching/Training

- **7,323 students took at least one high school CTE course in 2024–2025**



Next Steps:

New or Expansion of Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Recommended programming in this category targets those programs that are in **high-demand by both students and the local labor market**. In these areas current opportunities for students are limited, are decreasing or are not at the appropriate instructional and/or developmental level for all interested students.

- Carpentry/HVAC/Plumbing/Electrical/other related trades
- Auto Repair
- Welding/Metal Fabrication/Manufacturing
- Cybersecurity

New or Expansion of Career & Technical Education

Carpentry/HVAC/Plumbing/Electrical/Other Related Trades

Blue Valley 2023 Student Survey, conducted by Hollis & Miller Architects:

- Students were asked, “Are there programs not currently offered that would be of interest to you and or your friends? (select all that apply)”
 - Responses
 - 1,378 students answered
 - 11.5% selected Construction/Trades (carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc.)

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Workforce Study:

- The study identifies construction as one of the most promising sectors for workforce development in Overland Park, with strong projected demand and wage growth. It also identifies construction as a top-five sector when it comes to labor shortages.
- The study notes that existing secondary programs are limited in scope and capacity, especially in hands-on trades like construction.

Enrollment Trends (combined electrical technology, HVAC, plumbing):

- 2020-21 (1st year of BV student participation):
 - Students Participated: 1 (1 HVAC)
- 2021-22:
 - Students Participated: 6 (4 electrical, 0 HVAC, 2 plumbing)
- 2022-23:
 - Students Participated: 14 (4 electrical, 4 HVAC, 4 plumbing)
- 2023-24:
 - Students Interested: 9 (4 electrical, 4 HVAC, 1 plumbing)
 - JCCC seats: 8 (2 electrical, 4 HVAC, 2 plumbing)
- 2024-25:
 - Students Interested: 11 (5 electrical, 4 HVAC, 2 plumbing)
 - JCCC seats: 8 (2 electrical, 4 HVAC, 2 plumbing)
- 2025-26:
 - Students Interested: 29 (9 electrical, 17 HVAC, 3 plumbing)
 - JCCC seats: 5 (2 electrical, 2 HVAC, 1 plumbing)

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



New or Expansion of Career & Technical Education

Auto Repair

Blue Valley 2023 Student Survey, conducted by Hollis & Miller Architects:

- Are there programs not currently offered that would be of interest to you and or your friends? (select all that apply)
 - 1,378 students answered
 - 16% selected Automotive Technology

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Workforce Study:

- The study lists automotive service technicians among the region's top middle-skill occupations with persistent hiring challenges.
- The study notes a shortage of secondary programs offering hands-on automotive training and that students in Overland Park often lack early exposure to automotive careers, which limits enrollment in postsecondary programs and apprenticeships.

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



Enrollment Trends:

- 2019-20 (1st year of BV student participation):
 - Students Participated: 8
- 2020-21:
 - Students Participated: 14
- 2021-22:
 - Students Participated: 14
- 2022-23:
 - Students Participated: 14
- 2023-24:
 - Students Interested: 25
 - JCCC seats: 12
- 2024-25:
 - Students Interested: 19
 - JCCC seats: 12
- 2025-26:
 - Students Interested: 21
 - JCCC seats: 6

New or Expansion of Career & Technical Education

Welding/Metal Fabrication/Manufacturing

Blue Valley 2023 Student Survey, conducted by Hollis & Miller Architects:

- Are there programs not currently offered that would be of interest to you and or your friends? (select all that apply)
 - 1,378 students answered
 - 14% selected Metal Fabrication and Welding

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Workforce Study:

- The report mentions welding and metal fabrication as a priority sector in Overland Park's workforce strategy.
- The study highlights labor shortages in manufacturing, construction, and industrial maintenance.

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



Enrollment Trends:

- 2020-21 (1st year of BV student participation):
 - Students Participated: 4
- 2021-22:
 - Students Participated: 14
- 2022-23:
 - Students Participated: 15
- 2023-24:
 - Students Interested: 17
 - JCCC seats: 12
- 2024-25:
 - Students Interested: 23
 - JCCC seats: 12
- 25-26:
 - Students Interested: 28
 - JCCC seats: 6

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



New or Expansion of Career & Technical Education

Cyber Security

Blue Valley 2023 Student Survey, conducted by Hollis & Miller Architects:

- Are there programs not currently offered that would be of interest to you and or your friends? (select all that apply)
 - 1,378 students answered
 - 27% selected Robotics and Engineering (which included computer science in the descriptor)

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Workforce Study:

- The study lists cybersecurity as one of the fastest growing and highest paying sectors in the region, yet local employers face a shortage of qualified talent.
- The study highlights a shortage of secondary programs offering dedicated cybersecurity pathways and that local students often lack early exposure to cybersecurity careers, limiting enrollment in postsecondary programs and certifications.

CAREER READY PROGRAMS

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



Enrollment Trends:

- 2022-23 (1st year of BV student participation):
 - Students Participated: 8
- 2023-24:
 - Students Interested: 16
 - JCCC seats: 10
- 2024-25:
 - Students Interested: 11
 - JCCC seats: 10
- 2025-26:
 - Students Interested: 11
 - JCCC seats: 10



Next Steps

- **Today:** Provide current program status
- **Next:**
 - Provide information regarding K-12 industry practices
 - Provide recommendation for new & expanding program with an emphasis on post graduation success & opportunities
 - Provide facility analysis



“Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.”

Jackie Russell

Thank You!





KAP Data Update

October 13, 2025



New KAP scores

- Students participated in new forms of the Kansas State Assessments in Spring 2025.
- As new assessments were created, new performance level descriptions and new cut scores were set.
- As we'll see momentarily, Blue Valley students continue to significantly outperform peers across Kansas.

Performance Level Descriptions



PRIOR:

A student at Level ____ shows a(n) _____ ability to understand and use the skills needed for postsecondary readiness.

CURRENT:

A student at Level ____ shows a(n) _____ ability to demonstrate their knowledge and skills of (third, fourth, fifth, etc.) grade (ELA, Math, Science) standards.

Level 1 & Level 2 stay as “limited” and “basic”.

Level 3 shifts from “effective” to “proficient”.

Level 4 shifts from “excellent” to “advanced”.

The new baseline

- Scores from Spring 2024 testing to Spring 2025 are not directly comparable, because of the changes to test items and performance level descriptors.
- As such, the Spring 2025 scores represent a new baseline. Growth measures for 2025-26 will be revised to adjust to this new baseline.

ELA scores

	BV '24	BV '25	Kansas '24	Kansas '25	Diff '24	Diff '25
3rd grade	60.9%	73%	38.4%	53%	22.5%	20%
4th grade	65.3%	73%	43.3%	51%	22.0%	22%
5th grade	66.9%	75%	39.3%	51%	27.3%	24%
6th grade	61.8%	70%	33.5%	42%	28.3%	28%
7th grade	58.6%	70%	31.5%	44%	27.1%	26%
8th grade	37.9%	69%	22.3%	42%	15.6%	27%
10th grade	54.8%	65%	27.6%	39%	27.2%	26%

Math scores

	BV '24	BV '25	Kansas '24	Kansas '25	Diff '24	Diff '25
3rd grade	74.5%	67%	50.2%	43%	24.3%	24%
4th grade	60.9%	66%	37.1%	43%	23.8%	23%
5th grade	59.1%	64%	32.4%	43%	26.7%	21%
6th grade	55.2%	71%	29.7%	41%	25.5%	30%
7th grade	64.0%	71%	28.1%	37%	35.9%	34%
8th grade	48.1%	70%	23.9%	39%	24.2%	31%
10th grade	51.0%	68%	21.3%	34%	29.7%	34%

Science scores

***No data is available for 11th grade science.

	BV '24	BV '25	Kansas '24	Kansas '25	Diff '24	Diff '25
5th grade	69.4%	70%	45.0%	46%	24.4%	24%
8th grade	45.9%	67%	24.9%	39%	21.0%	28%
11th grade	45.9%	--	27.4%	--	18.5%	--



Summary

- The new set of cut scores represent a new baseline for state assessments.
- Blue Valley students continue to compare favorably to students across Kansas; though, 2024 data is not directly comparable to 2025 data, so a year-over-year metric is not available until Spring 2026 testing.
- The goal is for students to be at Level 3 - “Proficient”.

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Student Transportation

Bus Service:

- History
- Staffing Update
- Performance



Board of Education Workshop

October 13, 2025



Student Transportation Bus Partner

Who is our Partner - Durham School Services?

- Durham School Services is part of National Express LLC which is made up of Durham, Petermann and Stock Transportation.
- I Squared Capital purchased National Express from the UK based Mobico Group this past year.
- National Express is the 2nd largest school bus operator in North America with over 14,000 buses.
- I Squared Capital is re-investing in the business, and we are already seeing positive impacts of technology re-investment in Blue Valley.



Student Transportation Bus Contract

Bus contract history at a glance:

- BV partnered with Harmon, Laidlaw, First Student through multiple acquisitions and contracts from 1965-2011.
- Petermann was awarded a contract as a result of an RFP in 2011.
- National Express purchased Petermann in 2012 and began merging operations with Durham.
- Initial 2011 contract was for 6 years with a 6-year option expiring in 2023.
- BV worked with the Transpar Group (Consultant) to evaluate the performance, market conditions and recommended an extension for 2023-2025 and in 2024 to extend until July, 2029.



Student Transportation Bus Contract

Notable improvements in current contract:

- Focused on providing resources to attract and retain bus drivers. Blue Valley Durham is the highest paying bus driver job in the metro area. Pay steps were condensed and consideration given for new drivers bringing like experience.
- Two Customer Service Representatives, Additional Router, 2nd Operations Manager and an Employee Retention and Recognition Specialist positions have been added since 2023.
- New bus radio system, routing software and trips software implemented in the last two years.
- Over 70 buses being replaced in 2025-26 to maintain our max and average age of the fleet requirements. Over a \$10 million investment by Durham.



Student Transportation Bus Contract

BV Policy changes to help better align number of routes with available drivers and stabilize our system:

- Workforce shortage in qualified CDL drivers is not just a Blue Valley or Durham challenge. Made more difficult by how few drivers live in BV.
- Two key changes were made for the Fall of 2022 to help reduce the number of bus routes required.
- MS start and dismissal time was set 10 minutes after HS bell times. This allowed for HS and MS routes to be combined and saved 5-6 bus routes.
- Payrider program was modified and only offered to ES students that are under 2.5 miles from home to school. Eliminating MS/HS payriders reduced bus routes by about 10.
- Prior to these changes, Durham was short on average 15 bus drivers each day which caused a lot of disruption.





The State of Transportation

Blue Valley Durham Bus Driver Staffing Stats as of October 6th, 2025:

- **Number of designed routes needed** = 105.5
- **Available Route Drivers** = 94
- **Sub/Casual/Driver Trainers** = 27 (Not all available every day)
- **Average number of Route Drivers Absent** = 7-10 per day
- **Potential new drivers in the pipeline** = 27 (6 in training)
- **New drivers expected to be on route in the next 10 days** = 3.
- Historical turnover is 25% annually and peaked near 35% last school year.
- Top 3 reasons for turnover: Safety Violation, Attendance Policy and Full Time/Other Employment Opportunity.
- **Monitors needed** = 58
- **Available Monitors** = 55 + 8 Sub/Casual
- **Attrician Since Start of School** = 9 Drivers and monitors





Bus Driver Recruitment and Retention

Durham ongoing efforts to recruit and retain new bus drivers

- **Referral Bonus Being Paid** = \$1,000 per person for Bus Drivers
- **Sign on Bonus Offered for non-CDL Holders** = \$1,750
- **Sign on Bonus Offered for Current CDL Holders** = \$3,000
- **Corporate Recruiting Staff** = Assisting the local team with weekly conference calls to review applicant flow.
- **Advertisements** = Indeed, Facebook, and targeted online ads.
- **Job Fairs and Events** = Participate in Kansas City regional job fair opportunities and Community Parades. Host two Job Fairs Monthly and Accepts Walk In Interviews Daily.
- **Neighborhood Marketing** = Staff placing yard signs in neighborhoods where current drivers reside. Spanish flyers created for Hispanic Neighborhoods.
- **Buses and Banners** = Buses are moved around the region with new banners and are being parked out a lunch time in high traffic areas.
- **Business and Organizations** = Established many partnerships to cross advertise bus driving jobs.
- **Work Shuttles** = Durham has established park and ride shuttles to bring in staff from the surrounding region.
- **Appreciation Events** = Durham management has implemented weekly celebration and fun events for their staff to help with moral, retention and attendance.



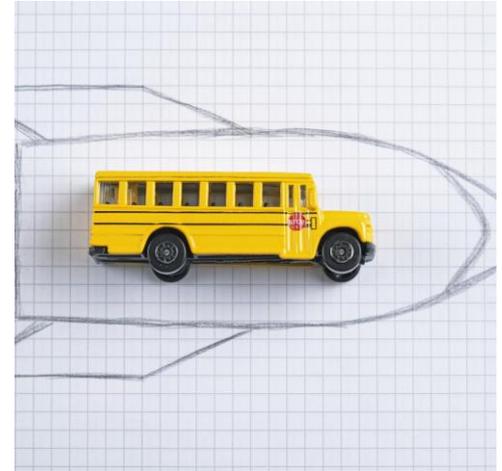


Service Level Agreement

Key Service Level Agreement Statistics from September, 2025:

- No more than 10 minutes late AM = 96.1% (Goal 99%)
- No more than 10 minutes late PM = 99.8% (Goal 99%)
- No single run more than 20 minutes late = 97.9% (Goal 99.5%)
- Preventable accidents = 0.87 (Goal <1 per 100,000 miles)
- Regular driver staffing equal to or greater than number of routes = 100% (Goal 100%*).

**(Route and sub drivers equal or exceed number of routes on specific measurement days each month.)*





The State of Transportation

Keys to sustaining consistent service:

- Retention activities to better keep Durham Drivers and staff
- Constant recruitment efforts to keep an active and efficient pipeline while competing with our neighbors
- Focus on customer service and communication
- Re-investments made in technology to improve efficiencies and satisfaction
- Pinpointed focus on improving SLA measurements
- Monitor changes to neighboring contracts/compensation plans
- Carefully manage service creep
- Apply any increase in number of bus drivers to improve SLA measurements and manage in year growth.





The State of Transportation

Blue Valley reality:

- Margin of route coverage remains thin with currently routed students. Risks remain if an illness breaks out and drives up absenteeism or a neighboring District raises wages and poaches drivers.
- Activity and field trip support/capacity remains about the same as last year, with a few more casual drivers. Our peak days call for 60+ buses that we have to work around routes. We leverage buses, school vans and at times outside charters.
- Bus routes can be maxed out in space or time within a tier before needing to get to the next assignment.
- New families, Early Childhood adds, SPED adds or changes and McKinney Vento adds or changes result in constant changes.
- Need to split some existing routes to improve on time performance. Durham is motivated financially to provide more routes as drivers can be identified.





The State of Transportation

Future Considerations:

- Split some existing routes to improve SLA on-time performance.
- Consider expansion of central campus transportation options for CTE, Academy and/or CAPS.
- Evaluate a mid-year program that could allow some under 2.5 mile payriders at the MS and/or HS level so that no new routes need to be added and existing rider impacts are minimized.



BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS



Questions





2025 Legislative Positions

We Believe...

- All children can learn.
- All children have the right to a high-quality public education, which includes a focus on academic achievement, personal growth, and social and emotional well-being, all in a safe and secure environment.
- An educated population is a cornerstone of a strong democracy.
- A robust public education system is essential for nurturing a society of highly competent workers and responsible citizens. Actively driving innovation forward within school districts stands as a crucial way to ensure a strong, action-oriented public education system.
- Strong public schools are the building block for local and state economic development.
- Academic curriculum decisions are a local school board responsibility, with curriculum decisions made to meet the highest standards of academic rigor in order to provide students the opportunity to compete on a global scale.

We Know...

- The Blue Valley School District has the **lowest** operating expenditures per pupil than any other district in Kansas with an enrollment of over 8,000 students. (Derived from the KSDE Data Central report for the 2022-23 school year.)
- The Blue Valley School District is the **11th** lowest in operating expenditures per pupil out of all 286 districts in Kansas. (Derived from the KSDE Data Central report for the 2022-23 school year).
- Long standing state law mandates the state of Kansas to reimburse school districts 92% of their excess costs for special-education services. The Blue Valley School District, however, only received funding for 62% of those costs for the 2023-24 academic year (a \$13.7 million shortfall) and has never received funding at the statutory required level.

Therefore, We Endorse...

- Measures and appropriate funding levels that encourage all school districts to pursue exemplary, and not just merely proficient, educational and well-being outcomes for their students.
- School finance policies that allow greater opportunities for local control.
- School finance policies that allow greater opportunities for increased funding levels, especially in higher-cost areas.

2025 Legislative Positions

PRIORITY POSITIONS

Fund Special Education

The Blue Valley School District supports full state funding for all excess costs of special education services.

Oppose Tax Credits and Vouchers for Private Schools

The Blue Valley School District opposes public funding of private schools, including tax credits for tuition payments to private schools, which do not comply with the same standards and requirements of public school districts.

Establish Fair and Equitable School Finance Formula

As the legislature prepares to conduct its periodic review of the school finance formula, the Blue Valley School District:

- supports an increase in the base state aid, with automatic annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index; and
- supports modifying the current formula to include poverty factors and additional indicators such as data related to ELL (English Language Learners), student academic performance, attendance, foster care, juvenile justice and homelessness, all of which will help to meet the needs of these underserved student populations.

Enhance Student Mental Health

The Blue Valley School District supports an expansion of community-based behavioral and mental health initiatives. Further, the District supports expanding the criteria for the statewide school-based mental health grants to include providers outside of the County Health Departments who reside in the school buildings.

Support Recruitment, Retention, and Alternative Teacher Certification

The Blue Valley School District supports the continued review of options to enhance staff recruitment and retention, including the use of Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) incentives to retain current employees. The district urges the state of Kansas to continue to meet its responsibility to fully fund KPERs without placing additional financial burden on local school districts or employees.

The District also supports the ongoing efforts to develop alternative teacher certification processes and legislative actions to achieve an alternative certification system while maintaining high qualification standards.

2025 Legislative Positions

STANDING POSITIONS

Support Local Control of Education Systems

The Blue Valley School District supports changes in state statutes that will allow for greater decision-making ability on the part of local Boards of Education to efficiently and effectively operate their education systems, and opposes efforts that reduce decision making authority or autonomy of local Boards of Education. As examples, the district:

- opposes limits placed on a local school board in determining local bonding capacity and authority;
- opposes regulatory requirements that hinder districts' ability to operate efficiently;
- opposes anyone or any entity other than the local school district being the sole determiner of the grade retention of students in its district; and
- supports the right to exercise local control as it relates to open enrollment.

Support Academic Rigor and Local Curriculum Decisions

The Blue Valley School District supports rigorous state standards of student achievement. In addition, a local school board should retain the responsibility to select the curriculum to meet the state standards of student achievement.

Preserve Ability for Judicial Review of State School Finance Provision

The Blue Valley School District opposes any constitutional amendment that limits or eliminates a local school board's right to bring about a judicial review of state school finance provisions.

Support Early Education

The Blue Valley School District supports legislation that would increase state programming and support of early-education programs, such as Parents as Teachers, without adversely impacting K-12 funding, and supports the ongoing investments of early-childhood programs through the full use of the Children's Initiative Fund.

Oppose Unfunded State Mandates

The Blue Valley School District opposes any mandate that is not fully funded.

Protect Autonomy in Managing Resources

The Blue Valley School District opposes state mandates that weaken a local board's opportunity to choose the proper educational standards for its community or mandates that impede the ability of locally elected school boards to manage and allocate resources.

2025 Legislative Positions

STANDING POSITIONS

Broaden Classroom Resources

The Blue Valley School District supports the inclusion of ancillary services (including, but not limited to, library services, counseling services, paraprofessional support, nursing services, occupational therapy, physical therapy and education support teams) into calculations of resources dedicated to student learning and achievement.

Amend Student Data Privacy Act

The Blue Valley School District supports changes in the Student Data Privacy Act so that no undue burden is placed upon school districts to comply with the requirements. Further, the law should be amended to exempt vision and hearing screening from the prohibition of collected data, as well as allow passive parental consent for surveys that are anonymous and voluntary, and comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA).

Legislative Priorities 2025

- Fund special education
- Oppose Tax Credits and Vouchers for Private Schools
- Establish Fair and Equitable School Finance Formula
- Enhance student mental health
- Support Recruitment, Retention, and Alternative Teacher Certification

Draft Legislative Priorities 2026

- **Reduce class sizes** - The caps for class sizes are listed below and these large numbers challenge the ability to meet the diverse needs of each student.

K= 23 students

1st = 24 students

2nd = 25 students

3rd = 27 students

4th - 5th = 28 students

6-12 = 30 students

- **Fund special education at 100%** - more than \$16M is transferred from the general fund to fund required special education services. Funding special education appropriately would provide the funding needed to reduce class sizes and recruit and retain staff.
- Establish Fair and Equitable School Finance Formula -65% of every locally raised dollar stays in the community.
- Enhance safety in schools - providing safe, healthy and caring environments is essential.
- Support Recruitment and Retention of Highly Qualified Staff