Turner School District Legislative Platform

2022 - 2023

MISSION

Achieving success by expecting the best from everyone.

VISION

TUSD 202 will be recognized as a collective and collaborative community that demonstrates continuous growth, expects excellence, and empowers every individual.

BELIEFS

Turner students come first
Understand, accept, and appreciate diversity
Recognize and celebrate achievement
Nurture a safe and caring environment
Embrace change with persistence
Require high expectations for all

SPOTLIGHT ISSUES FOR THE 22 - 23 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, and licensure.
- We support management of public schools under locally-elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management, and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- We support suitable finance provided by the Kansas Legislature, including continued implementation of the constitutionally suitable school funding and inflationary adjustments approved by the Legislature, the Governor, and the Kansas Supreme Court.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- We support improving teacher recruitment and retention through local control of classroom content, respect for the teaching profession, and increased funding for salaries, including the inflationary adjustments approved by the legislature and state Supreme Court.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT USD 202

- USD 202 serves approximately 4,000 students
- USD 202 is 83% free/reduced lunch
- The district demographics are as follows: 49% Hispanic, 31% White, 12% African American, 8% Other
- USD 202 has approximately 650 district employees
- Four elementaries, one 6th grade building, one middle school, one traditional high school, one alternative high school

ONGOING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR USD 202

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Funding for early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers, infant/toddler special education, and pre-kindergarten.
- Funding continuing to support and expand career pathway programs and student support programs like JAG.
- State Aid to support bond and interest projects calculated using district assessed valuation per-pupil.
- Study state transportation aid to include students living less than 2.5 miles from their assigned school, including but not limited to funding to transport students who live in hazardous areas.
- To ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed, all schools supported by public funds must serve all children on the same basis as public schools. We oppose programs including but not limited to vouchers, education savings accounts, and tuition tax credits because such programs divert public funding from public education to schools which are not required to serve all students, including those who are disadvantaged, disabled, or those with the greatest need.
- We support the state legislature meeting its statutory obligation to reimburse special education service costs at the mandatory rate of 92 percent of excess costs to ensure student success.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- Flexibility in the path to teacher licensure while retaining appropriate standards set by the State Board of Education.
- A long term, sustained commitment towards funding of KPERS.
- Local boards of education right to hire the most qualified candidate and, if necessary, to pay any additional actuarial cost established by KPERS.
- Equitable working after retirement provisions for all public employees.

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- A system that abides by the Kansas Constitutional requirement that public schools must be operated by locally elected boards of education.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

- Allowing for accountability measures to match school funding schedules.
- Fully funding legislative mandates.
- Increased support for student health and security.
- Expand early childhood education programs to improve student outcomes and support families.