



Turner School District Legislative Platform 2021 - 2022

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 21 - 22 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- 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 "school choice" programs which divert public funding to schools which are not required to serve disadvantaged and disabled students with the greatest needs.

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Support expansion of state transportation aid to include students living between 1.0 and 2.5 miles.
- Relief from reductions due to free/reduced lunch status related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Funding for early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers, infant/toddler special education, and pre-kindergarten.

HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- Means to address staff shortages and management challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TUSD 202

- TUSD 202 serves approximately 4,000 students.
- TUSD 202 is 75% free/reduced lunch.
- The district demographics are as follows: 48% Hispanic, 33% White, 12% African American, 8% Other
- TUSD 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 TUSD 202

SCHOOL FUNDING

- Suitable finance provided by the Kansas Legislature, including continued implementation of the constitutionally suitable school funding approved by the Legislature and the Kansas Supreme Court.
- Fully funding the increasing cost of special education services at the statutory rate of 92 percent of excess cost to ensure student success.
- 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. Removal of state-wide cap on bond and interest allocations.

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.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS

- Allowing for accountability measures to match school funding schedules.
- Fully funding legislative mandates.
- Increased support for student health and safety.

EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- General supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation, and licensure.
- A system that abides by the Kansas Constitutional requirement that public schools must be operated by locally elected boards of education.