



Olathe Public Schools  
**Annual Report**  
**2022-2023**



## A Message from our Board of Education

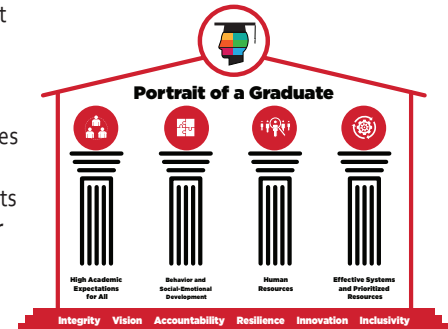


In the Olathe Public Schools, we are committed to "Preparing Students for *Their Future!*" from the moment they step foot into our schools. In the 2022-2023 school year, we welcomed both volunteers and visitors back into our buildings to engage with students and help support our buildings. Our schools opened up their doors by hosting events for families and inviting the community to the classroom. This gave our Olathe Public Schools community an opportunity to engage and be present in their students' or neighborhood school.

We focused on #OPSforTheirFuture as a system, where we reflected on the ways in which we educate all of our students for their unique success. Not only did the Class of 2023 earn more than \$50 million in scholarships, but our district had 206 Career Technical Education Scholars, which was the most in Kansas history. Being named a CTE Scholar earned these students a scholarship toward Johnson County Community College. We are incredibly proud of our students and their accomplishments, whether they graduated this year or will be returning to us in the fall to continue their K-12 education.

To continue to provide the best environment for learning, we began work on our \$298.3 million bond projects that directly impact our students and will address needs in the areas of Growth and Reinvestment, Technology and Innovation, Student Experience and Safety. Elementary school playgrounds were resurfaced and received ADA equipment, and major progress was made with the construction of the new Santa Fe Trail Middle School. In August of 2022, the district began its adoption of CrisisAlert, a badge system that allows every staff member to alert administration or lock down a school with a touch of a button. These are just a few of the initial projects included in the 2022 Bond work, and we look forward to continued progress over the next several years.

The 2022-2023 school year brought both celebrations and challenges, but through it all, our priority was and continues to be our students and their learning. We thank you for your continued support of Olathe Public Schools and look forward to the many opportunities to support our mission of students prepared for *their* future in the year ahead.





## Olathe Public Schools Implemented CrisisAlert for All Staff Members

All staff members in the Olathe Public Schools can now call for help with the push of a button on their badge with CrisisAlert, a safety solution by CENTEGIX, a company that creates safer spaces by innovating to empower and protect people.

"The safety of our students and staff is our top priority and we believe this will add to the variety of tools that we use on a daily basis," Executive Director of Safety Services Brent Kiger said. "We believe that this simple tool can have a huge impact on our educators' and our students' physical and mental health. Regardless of what is happening and wherever they are, we can respond quickly."

The CrisisAlert platform is an incident alerting solution that empowers teachers and staff to call for help with the push of a button on a badge they wear in addition to their ID badge they wear daily. This simple push of a button provides school/district administration, school resource officers, and other first responders with precise location information of the impacted staff member, enabling them to respond quickly in any situation. With the CrisisAlert badge, staff members are to alert administration for everyday student and staff events such as medical emergencies, or in a crisis situation, staff would be able to initiate campus-wide lockdowns at the touch of a button.

"We know that building trusted relationships with our students is the best way for our educators to create a

safe space for students to learn," Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said. "However, we also recognize that emergency situations can occur at any moment, and it is best to have resources in place to support our students and staff in times of crisis. Our goal is to give our staff peace of mind that they can call for help at anytime, anywhere on school grounds, and they will be heard."

Staff members can use the badge to alert campus administration and building responders if they need assistance. The badge provides 100% campus coverage without depending on Wi-Fi, cellular signal, or opening an app on the phone. Staff members can also utilize the badge to activate an emergency lockdown, which triggers audio and visual notifications. Strobe lights flash and beep in every room and hallway, and instructional messages are displayed on computers connected to the network. The intercom plays a message with instructions corresponding to the alert type.

"We trust our educators have the best interests of our students in mind," Kiger said. "If they feel they are in danger, we want them to be able to alert our building responders and go into lockdown with a click of a button."

Thanks to the passage of the 2022 Bond by the community, Olathe Public Schools was able to implement this program district-wide before the 2022-2023 school year began.

## District Breaks Ground on New Santa Fe Trail Middle School Building

After months of planning, the district officially broke ground on the new Santa Fe Trail Middle School. On Nov. 17, 2022, members of the Olathe Board of Education, district administration, the Santa Fe Trail community and more gathered to celebrate the ceremonious start to the construction process. This project is part of the 2022 Bond to provide an updated facility that better meets the needs of students and provides equal educational opportunities for students through a high-quality learning space.

During the event, Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said, "This day would not be possible without the support of our greater Olathe community, who recently passed the largest bond in district history of nearly \$300 million, providing the funding necessary to make our vision of a new Santa Fe Trail a reality. I cannot thank you all enough."

Originally constructed in 1968, the current Santa Fe Trail building has undergone renovations and additions to maintain the facility. However, in looking at the continued infrastructure challenges, as well as the outdated design, small classroom space and the cost to continue renovating the existing building, a fresh start was the best cost-efficient answer for the Santa Fe Trail community.

The new Santa Fe Trail will be constructed on the existing campus, allowing students and staff to remain in the current facility and continue teaching and learning uninterrupted until the new facility is ready. The estimated timeframe for construction is two years, with a projection of substantial completion around April 2024.

Members of the Olathe Board of Education, Olathe Mayor John Bacon, several city council members, Olathe leaders, community

partners, as well as students and administrators from Santa Fe Trail gathered for the special groundbreaking ceremony. Speakers included Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager, Board President Shannon Wickliffe, Principal J.J. Libal, and several sixth grade students who will have the opportunity to attend school in the new building once construction is complete.

"One of my favorite responsibilities as a board member is the opportunity to celebrate milestones with our community at events just like this," Wickliffe said. "Today's groundbreaking is a little different than what we would normally see. Often, these events celebrate the start of a brand-new school and community. But today, we have the perfect blend of honoring the past and the rich history of a school community that has been with us for more than 50 years, while also looking toward a bright new future."

Newkirk Novak, construction manager of the project, is collaborating with Hollis+Miller Architects, Henderson Engineers and Olsson for the project.







## Family and Community Involvement Increased in Schools

One of Olathe Public Schools' priorities for the 2022-23 school year was for families and community members to engage in the schools whether that is through visiting, attending special events or volunteering. Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager welcomed families, volunteers and visitors back into the classroom in August 2022.

"We are just getting started. If you are interested in seeing what is happening in your neighborhood school, I would encourage you to attend an event or sign up to volunteer – you will not regret it," Superintendent Dr. Brent Yeager said.

From math teachers at Olathe East High School inviting parents into the classroom to experience a math lesson during the day, to parents participating in a pep assembly at Frontier Trail Middle School, or Java with Jay at Olathe West High School – parent engagement reached an all-time high. Elementary schools were no different.

Harmony Early Childhood Center and Heartland Early Childhood Center invited special guests to recess. Families played alongside their preschooler's classroom for extra recess time.

"We believe that parents and caregivers serve as the first and most important teachers for our students," Director of Early Childhood Dr. Kim Hawkins said.

"We invited families to school to engage in our

favorite activity – play! It was so great to watch children playing with their favorite adults and to watch caregivers make connections with school staff and each other."

Another event that helped families build relationships not only with their child, but with the other parents and caregivers was Ridgeview Elementary School's Fiesta Night. Principal Leslie Simons, along with her staff, hosted this cultural event for all during Hispanic Heritage Month. Families loved the food, the entertainers, and the ability to come together and celebrate.

"We want our community and families to know school is a safe place and all are welcome," Simons said. "We are an open door in everything we do. It truly takes a village. As a parent, I have to trust that great things that represent my children are taking place in the school. This is best done through full transparency, which includes having our families walking with us side by side."

Community involvement and engagement in schools is of the utmost importance because students can see their surrounding support system, staff can feel the encouragement of the community, and the community can see the inspiring things the students and educators are doing every single day.



## District: At a Glance

### **Enrollment:** 29,043

- Second-largest district in Kansas
- Largest school district in Kansas City metro on either side of the Kansas-Missouri state line

### **Number of Staff:** 4,474

- 2,679 – Certified staff
- 1,795 – Classified support staff
- 14 years – Average experience of classroom teachers
- 7 – Kansas Teachers of the Year
- 20 – Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
- Olathe Public Schools is the fourth-largest employer and the third-largest public employer in the KC metro area.

### **Schools and Programs:**

- 36 – Elementary schools (Grades K-5)
- 10 – Middle schools (Grades 6-8)
- 5 – High schools (Grades 9-12)
- Claire Learning Center
- Harmony and Heartland early childhood centers and Head Start Program
- Mill Creek Campus
- Olathe Advanced Technical Center
- Prairie Learning Center
- West Dennis Learning Center

A photograph of several young women sitting on bleachers, likely at a school event. They are wearing blue and white clothing, and one is holding a sign with a large number '9'. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and the structure of the bleachers.

## Strong Foundation of Learning and Student Involvement

### Learning Results

- 2022 ACT composite average: 22.1
  - Kansas Average: 19.9
  - National Average: 20.3
- 16 National Merit finalists in 2022

### Accreditation

All schools fully accredited by the state of Kansas

### Graduation Rate

94.6 percent

### Programs

- Elementary weekly technology instruction
- Tiered math instruction at the middle level, including advanced classes
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) for increasing college readiness at all high schools
- Fifteen 21st Century Academies
- Two-year Career and Technical Education programs at the Olathe Advanced Technical Center

- College-level classes – Advanced Placement and College Now courses (dual-enrollment for college credit)
- eAcademy online education
- Physical fitness offerings at all levels
- Fine arts offerings at all levels – visual arts, general music, choral, orchestra, band and theatre
- 3DE model at Olathe East High School

### College Level Courses

- 23 Advanced Placement courses
- 46 College Now courses
- 5 College Board College Level Equivalency Program (CLEP) offered

### Activities and Athletics

- 61 percent of students in grades 5-12 are involved in one or more activity or athletic opportunity
- Olathe's rich activity and athletic programs create a well-rounded student population



## Outstanding Students

- The Olathe Public Schools had 16 students named National Merit semifinalists. Of those semifinalists, all 16 advanced to become finalists.
- Mahi Kohli, California Trail Middle School eighth grader, won the Kansas MATHCOUNTS competition and placed second in the nationwide Broadcom MASTERS STEM competition, where she was one out of 30 finalists.
- TaVeon Bell Robinson, Olathe East High School junior, was named the 2023 Olathe Unit Youth of the Year in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year Program.
- Camilo Bustamante, Olathe West High School senior, received the Kansas Head Start Alumni High School Senior Scholarship.
- Isaac Smith, Olathe East High School junior, won first place in the Computer Aided Design (CAD) Architecture category at the 2023 Kansas Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference. Olathe North High School sophomore Katie Maxwell and freshman Ethan Smith picked up second-place finishes in their respective categories and qualified for the National TSA competition.
- Olathe South High School's Falcon Films earned first place in the Kansas Scholastic Press Association's regional and state film contests and first place in the on-air personality category of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters state contest.
- The Olathe East High School 3DE team received honorable mention in the 2023 Arby's National Case Competition.

*Mahi Kohli, California Trail Middle School*





## Outstanding Students

- Olathe Northwest High School's FIRST Robotics Team 1710 received the Engineering Inspiration Award at the FIRST Heartland Regional Competition and qualified for the World Championship in Houston, TX in April.
- Chisholm Trail Middle School placed third in the Future City Great Plains Regional Competition in Topeka, KS. The team members were: eighth grader Ethan Long; seventh graders Eric Lin, Isaac Player, Raelyn Ryan and Isabel Baca; sixth graders Will Brotherson, Sydney Lye, Tyler Gaona and Zoe Good.
- 206 Olathe students were named Kansas Career and Technical Education (CTE) Scholars by the Kansas State Department of Education, accounting for about 79% of the 2023 CTE scholars. Olathe Public Schools had the most out of any district in the state and the most the district has ever had.
- Eleven Olathe East High School students won first place awards at the Educators Rising State Conference. They are: Katelyn Barbee, Taylor Barth, Halle Bruss, Hannah Connelly, Katelyn Eastman, Hailey France, Claire Heigele, Cherilyn Hernandez Vara, Payten Mayfield, Miranda Murillo, and Brianne Roehm.
- Six Olathe students won Thespy awards at Kansas Thespians State Festival. They are: Tristan Jenkins, Olathe South High School; Gen Anderson and Kolby Brown, Olathe West High School; M.K. Mullen and Kendall Ficken, Olathe Northwest High School; and Layla Abu Saada, Olathe East High School.
- Medical Professions students at Olathe North High School swept first, second and third place in the University of Kansas Engineering Day Bioengineering Competition.

*CTE Scholar recipient, Olathe North High School*



## Perfect ACT Score

- Soren Flannery, Olathe North High School
- Jakob Kuehnen, Olathe South High School



*Soren Flannery, Olathe North*



*Jakob Kuehnen, Olathe South*



## Outstanding District and Schools

- Olathe Public Schools was voted as the No. 12 best mid-sized employer in the nation by Forbes Magazine (the only K-12 school district in the top 60).
- Olathe West High School won eight of the 33 competitions at the 2023 Kansas Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference, their best finish in school history. Twelve of the 16 students who competed qualified for the National TSA competition in Louisville.
- Canyon Creek Elementary School won a \$1,000 prize for their work in the 2022 Keep it Clean Kansas (KICK) Outreach Challenge.
- Olathe Public Schools earned 45 superior ratings at the Kansas Thespians State Festival. Olathe North High School, Olathe South High School and Olathe West High School received Gold Honor Troupe Awards.
- Olathe East High School (52.8% completion rate) and Olathe West High School (51.7% completion rate) placed in the top five 6A high schools in the 2023 Kansas FAFSA Challenge.
- Westview Elementary School was named one of the 2022 Challenge Award recipients by the Kansas State Department of Education for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishments based on Kansas Assessment results in math and reading.



*Canyon Creek Elementary School KICK Outreach Challenge*

- The Olathe Lowrider Leadership Bike Club earned the Community Service Award from the United Community Services of Johnson County.
- Olathe Public Schools was named the No. 2 public school district in the Kansas City metro area by Ingram's Magazine.
- Olathe Public Schools' School Psychological Services Recognition Program was given Proficient Status designation from the National Association of School Psychologists' Excellence.

## Outstanding District and Schools

- Westview Elementary School was named a National ESEA Distinguished School by the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act State Program Administrators.
- Olathe Public Schools was ranked No. 3 in Best School Districts in Kansas as part of Niche's 2023 grades and rankings.
- Olathe Public Schools received multiple awards in the Kansans Can Star Recognition Award program. The awards were: Silver in Social-Emotional Growth and Postsecondary Effectiveness; Copper in Academically Prepared for Graduation; Bronze in Graduation.
- Olathe Public Schools was voted the Best Public School District in Kansas City magazine's Best of KC edition.



*OPS Human Resources leadership was honored at the May 2023 Board of Education Meeting.*



*Westview Elementary honored for receiving the Challenge Award.*

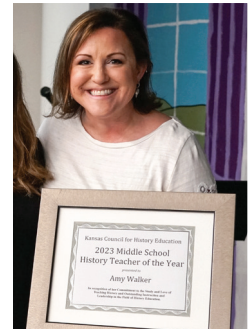


## Staff Awards

- Kansas Head Start Administrator of the Year — Kim Sill, Head Start
- Kansas Head Start Support Staff of the Year — Sharon Green, Head Start
- One of two Region 3 finalists for the 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year — Taylor Bussinger, Prairie Trail Middle School; Region 3 semifinalist for the 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year— Tanya Mathieu, Westview Elementary School
- One of three recipients of the Wolfe Teaching Excellence Award given by the University of Kansas — Lorranda Baldrige, Olathe Northwest High School
- Emporia State University Master Teacher Award program nominees — Beth Dean, Santa Fe Trail Middle School; Brooke Kunstman, Brougham Elementary School; Shelby Lewis, Countryside Elementary School; Tanya Mathieu, Westview Elementary School; Kaci Ratzlaff, Pioneer Trail Middle School; Josh Trevino, Olathe Northwest High School
- East Central Kansas Music Educators Association Elementary Music Educator — Michele Bullins, Manchester Park Elementary School
- Distinguished Achievement awards in the Kansas School Public Relations Association and Kansas Association of School Boards publications contest — Becky Grubaugh, Marlene Colgan, Tony Rangel, Erin Schulte
- One of three recipients of the Charles T. Blair-Broeker Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Psychological Association Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools — Jennifer Schlicht, Olathe South High School
- Middle School History Teacher of the Year as named by the Kansas Council for History Education — Amy Walker, Summit Trail Middle School
- Two of five recipients of the Kansas Science Teacher of the Year Award — Staci Cavanaugh, Olathe North High School; Drew Smith, Olathe Northwest High School
- Kansas finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching — Dr. Betsy Lawrence, Summit Trail Middle School; Sarah Evans, Olathe South High School



*Taylor Bussinger, Prairie Trail Middle School*



*Amy Walker, Summit Trail Middle School*

## Staff Awards



- 2022 KSHSAA Heart of the Arts Award — Laura Klaassen, Olathe East High School
- Milburn-Reddy Community Award from the Olathe Lions Club — Heather Schoonover, Olathe Public Schools
- Athletic Trainer of the Year Award from the Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society — Erin Washington, Olathe East High School
- Maintenance of Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards — Rachel Kufeldt, Prairie Trail Middle School; Sara Mochel, Instructional Resource Center; Sarah Gregory, Clearwater Creek Elementary School; Julie Miller, Instructional Resource Center
- Region 2 Teacher of the Year from the Kansas Thespians — Amy Hastings, Olathe Northwest High School
- Edna L. Harrison Pioneer Award from the Kansas Association of School Psychologists — Dr. Kailee Potter, Havencroft and Walnut Grove elementary schools
- Elected vice president of the Kansas World Language Association — Dr. Marta Silva, Olathe North High School
- Outstanding Young Music Teachers named by the Kansas Music Educators Association — Danny Lytle, Olathe East High School; Megan Bricks, Forest View Elementary School
- 2022 Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association — Matt Johnson, Olathe Public Schools



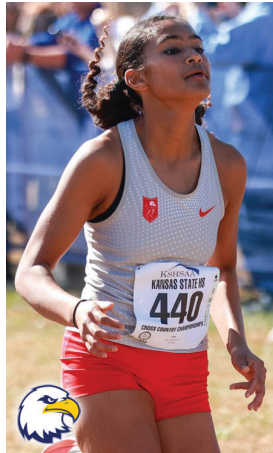
*Dr. Kailee Potter and Molly, Havencroft Elementary School and Walnut Grove Elementary School*



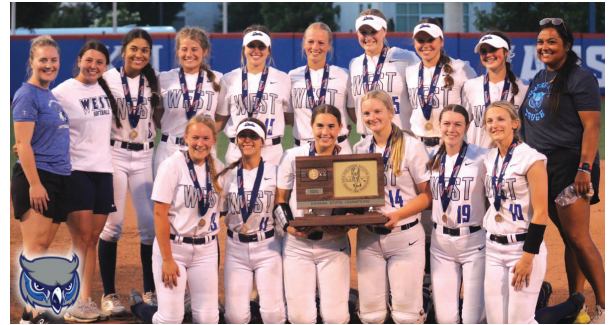
*Dr. Marta Silva, Olathe North High School, Vice President of Kansas World Language Association*

## Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!

- Anjali Hocker Singh, Olathe North High School, won the Girls 6A state cross country title.
- Charlie Matthews, Olathe East High School, won the Boys 6A state diving title.
- Emmy Keller, Olathe Northwest High School, won 6A state gymnastics titles in the All-Around and Vault categories.
- Alexis Purdy, Olathe West High School, won the 6A state gymnastics title in the Beam category.
- Olathe West High School 6A State Softball Champions
- Kobe Otero, Olathe East High School, won the Boys 6A state championship in the 50-yard Freestyle.
- Kaylan Hitchcock, Olathe North High School, won the 6A Girls wrestling state title in her weight class.
- Nicole Redmond, Olathe South High School, won the 6A Girls wrestling state title in her weight class.



*Anjali Hocker Singh -  
Olathe North High School,  
Kansas 6A State Cross Country  
Champion*



*Olathe West High School, Kansas 6A State Softball Champions*



*Olathe North High School, Kansas 6A State Gymnastics Champions*

- Brett Carroll, Olathe East High School, won the 6A Boys wrestling state title in his weight class.

## Outstanding Athletes: CHAMPIONS!

- Olathe Northwest High School Kansas Girls 6A State Golf Champions
- Olathe North High School Kansas 6A State Gymnastics Champions
- Josh Parrish, Olathe North High School, won 6A state track and field titles in the Boys 110 M Hurdles, the Boys Triple Jump and the Boys Long Jump.
- Jason Parrish, Olathe North High School, won the 6A state track and field title in the Boys 300 M Hurdles.
- Olathe West High School Girls 6A State Track and Field Champions.
- Olivia Cooper, Olathe Northwest High School, won the 6A state track and field title in the Girls 100 M Hurdles.
- Christian Harris, Olathe North High School, won the 6A state track and field title in the Boys 200 M Dash.
- Ka'Liyah Jordan, Olathe North High School, won 6A state track and field titles in the Girls 100 M Dash and 200 M Dash.
- Olathe North High School, Boys Kansas 6A State Track and Field Champions
- Brett Carroll, Olathe East High School, won the 6A state track and field title in the Boys Shot Put.
- Charis Robinson, Olathe West High School, won the 6A state track and field title in the Girls 1600 M Run.



*Olathe Northwest High School, Kansas 6A State Golf Champions*



*Olathe North High School, Boys 6A State Track and Field Champions*



## Financial Statement • Percent of Budget



<b>Mill Levy</b>	
General Fund . . . . .	20.000
Supplemental General . . . . .	14.641
Capital Outlay . . . . .	8.000
Special Liability . . . . .	0.249
Extraordinary Growth . . . . .	4.738
Cost of Living . . . . .	2.925
Bond & Interest . . . . .	14.411
Special Assessments . . . . .	0.204
Total . . . . .	65.168

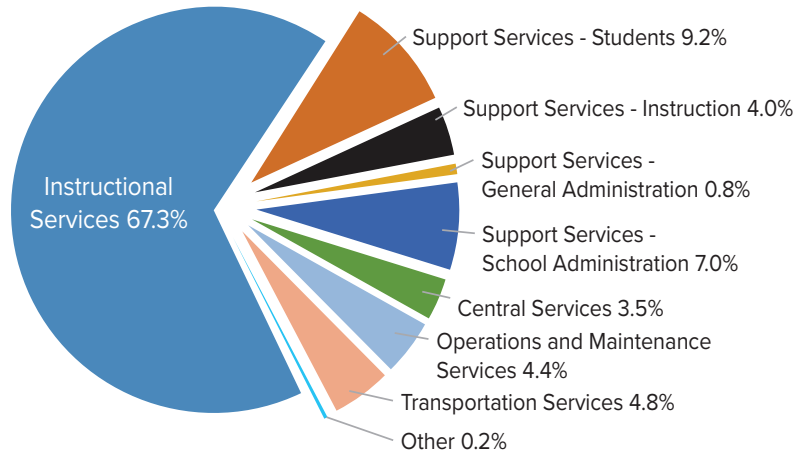
<b>Sources Of Revenue (Operating Funds)</b>	
Local & County Taxes . . . . .	54,682,903
State Funds . . . . .	257,743,918
Federal . . . . .	8,689,241
Total . . . . .	\$321,116,061

<b>Assessed Valuation</b>	
	\$2,898,582,995

<b>Base State Aid Per Pupil</b>	
2021-22 . . . . .	\$4,706
2022-23 . . . . .	\$4,846
An increase of 2.97%	

<b>Expenditures By Function Area</b>	
Instructional Services . . . . .	210,661,804
Support Services - Students . . . . .	29,486,363
Support Services - Instruction . . . . .	12,796,974
Support Services - General Administration . . . . .	2,831,968
Support Services - School Administration . . . . .	22,309,944
Central Services . . . . .	11,037,199
Operations & Maintenance Services . . . . .	14,126,408
Transportation Services . . . . .	15,429,201
Other . . . . .	225,917
Total . . . . .	\$318,905,779

<b>Operating Fund Expenditures</b>	
Salaries & Benefits . . . . .	279,301,220
Professional & Technical Services . . . . .	3,554,488
Purchased Property Services . . . . .	715,438
Other Purchased Services . . . . .	5,158,733
Supplies & Materials . . . . .	6,301,381
Equipment/Property . . . . .	294,546
Utilities . . . . .	8,024,997
Transportation . . . . .	15,429,201
Other . . . . .	125,776
Total . . . . .	\$318,905,779











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## Students Prepared for *Their* Future!

**Notice of Non-Discrimination:** The Olathe Public Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity in its programs, activities or employment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups to its facilities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Equal Access Act of 1984 and other relevant state and federal laws as amended. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to race, ethnicity, gender, age discrimination, sexual orientation, gender identity or equal access may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 S. Black Bob Road, Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Executive Director of Special Services, 14160 S. Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66063-2000, phone (913) 780-7000. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Assistant Superintendent, Operations. (05/22)

