

2014-2015 Profile Information



USD 247 Southeast Cherokee-Crawford Unified School District



School Finance
Kansas State Department of Education
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2014-15 Budget General Information

USD #: 247

Introduction

USD 247 Southeast serves the cities of Cherokee, McCune, Weir, and West Mineral along with other southeast Kansas communities. USD 247 Southeast is the home of the “Lancers.” Lancers are known to be the fearless leading others into battle. In accordance with our namesake, USD 247 is leads the way in many educational areas. Our district was at the forefront of 1-1 laptops over a decade ago and we were the first in southeast Kansas to provide 1-1 IPADS to students. We immerse students in a technology rich environment that includes access to the Ipads, laptops, virtual learning, interactive distance learning, and we are now offering a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum Pre-K through 12th grade for all students. PITSCO math academies and science labs, LEGO Education/robotics and Engineering by Design K-12, along with Autodesk drafting all are components of a rich STEM curriculum. We have a partnership with PITSCO, a worldwide educational supply and curriculum provider headquartered in Pittsburg, Kansas which provides much of the hands on project based curriculum materials and the computer assisted math curriculum for grades 6-8. PITSCO’s research indicates that we are the only district in the nation that has committed to providing a STEM curriculum to all students in all buildings and in all grades Pre-k through 12th. Our students also work with LEGO Education and Robotics materials and curriculum from Pre-K through 3rd grade. Robotic programs are offered K-12 and include Mindstorm, Tetrix, and the newly arrived “NAO” artificial intelligence android robot. Engineering by Design begins fall of 2014-15.

In addition to leading in technology and STEM education, our district has been recognized nationally for its development of a state of the art High School Multi-Tiered Support System for students. The State has likewise recognized Southeast High School’s MTSS work.

USD 247 Southeast also hosts Kansas’ only school based United States Air Force Civil Air Patrol program for students 6-12th grade. This non-profit aerospace and aviation education program that also trains and has students participate in crisis response or search and rescue operations has co-participated in grants that have generated nearly \$600,000 total in funding for the past year and the next four to come. This grant has purchased the NAO robots and curriculum, provided after school activities, flying instruction in gliders and powered aircraft, and a highly engaging STEM/Aerospace based summer program for 6th – 12th graders that state officials described as the most engaging program for those grades in the state. Cadets and students have received powered aircraft and glider pilot training.

The Southeast school district offers engaging and highly effective instruction for our students of all ability levels regardless of the personal challenges that students can face in life. We prepare students to be able to compete and succeed in their post high school educational and vocational pursuits. The budget described in this profile along with district information provided illustrates the challenges our district faces of doing more with less and our commitment to improving the future quality of life of our students by providing the best possible instruction and the widest opportunities for learning we can provide.

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Key Staff

Superintendent:	Dr. Glenn Fortmayer
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Curriculum Staff:	Debbie Clawson Curriculum Director
Other Key Contacts:	Linda Solomon, Technology Director Rocky Davied, Food Service/Transportation Director Brent Imhoff, Maintenance Department Lead

The District's Accomplishments and Challenges

Accomplishments: USD 247 has continued to reach the goals required Kansas accreditation requirements that are in transition and the federal NCLB waiver which is also in transition. Southeast students continued to achieve high scores of proficiency in reading and math and have achieved standard of excellence in the past. The new assessments in transition did not provide individual student data in the 2013-14 school year and assessments are now totally new. The District's newly formed junior high has been extremely well received and praised by students, parents, and patrons and will host grades 5-8 in 2014-15. A new district combined elementary school hosting grades PK-4 begins this year as well. Students participate in traditional classroom and virtual delivery models. Staff Collaboration time for professional development with emphasis on technology integration, differentiation, and authentic engagement for all teachers Pre-k through 12th grade has been instituted. The 1-1 Ipad2 and classroom technology as well as IDL and virtual learning opportunities have all been expanded through grades 7-12. High school course offerings have been increased and additional high school credit classes have been added at the junior high level.

Challenges: USD 247 is engaging several ongoing challenges. The foremost is dealing with state funding reductions that are probable after this year. Declining enrollment is a persistent threat for a small rural district. The district was forced to close one elementary building in McCune as enrollment fell to only 54 students due to a combination of parents leaving the rural area in search of work and a historical pattern of McCune area parents taking their children to other district schools. The district expects to take a significant loss in revenues due to the expected loss of most of the students that attended

the McCune school. The greater threat to the district in terms of declining enrollment is that of the continued loss of students due to families leaving the southeast Kansas region entirely due to economic reasons. This trend has reduced the district enrollment from 892 in 2004 to 615 in 2013-14. The district expects enrollment to be around 560-580 for the 2014-15 school year. Each student lost represents on average about \$7,000 per student when all revenue sources are considered. In the years from 2004-2008 the district was able to offset the revenue lost by declining enrollment through increases in aid received from the state and by raising the local tax commitment from 17% to the 30% maximum percent of the general fund allowed by law. Those mitigating sources of revenue have now been reduced in terms of state aid and local taxes are at their maximum so now revenue losses due to declining enrollment are resulting in fiscal cuts to the budget.

Acquiring equipment and software to expand our 1-1 IPAD program to SJHS, virtual curriculum offerings, and other technology based learning opportunities are challenges the district continuously works to turn into successes. An intense MTSS expansion to support students K-12 is being implemented. The district is continuing its unique and state leading K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum.

Major challenges exist in regards to capital outlay expenditures. The district is attempting to gain greater flexibility in how these funds can be spent under the new state finance law as of May 2014. The district needs to purchase one new school bus per year from 2015-2030 to remain legal under the 25 year school bus use law. ADA modifications to facilities and to playgrounds are being finished this year. The ever expensive HS band uniforms are long overdue to be replaced, and major expenses dealing with the HS track and parking lot, restrooms, and roof; all provide major fiscal challenges.

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Note: The FTE (full time equivalency) used in this report to calculate the “Amount Per Pupil” is defined as following: Enrollment (FTE) includes the enrollment of the district used for state aid and budget authority, and all other preschool enrollment and kindergarten students attending full time.

KSDE Website Information Available

K-12 Statistics (Building, District or State Totals)

<http://svapp15586.ksde.org/k12/k12.aspx>

- Attendance / Enrollment Reports
- Staff Reports
- Graduates / Dropouts Reports
- Crime / Violence Reports

School Finance Reports and Publications

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/FiscalandAdministrativeServices/SchoolFinance/ReportsandPublications.aspx>

- Assessed Valuation
- Cash Balances
- Headcount Enrollment
- Mill Levies
- Personnel (Certified/Non-Certified)
- Salary Reports

Kansas Building Report Card

<http://svapp15586.ksde.org/rcard/>

- Attendance Rate
- Graduation Rate
- Dropout Rate
- School Violence
- Assessments
 - Reading
 - Mathematics
 - Writing
- Graduates Passing Adv. Science Courses
- Graduates Passing Adv. Math Courses