

Pawnee Heights Building State Assessment Review

District: 496 Pawnee Heights

School: Pawnee Heights

Building Number: 8167

Grades Served: PK - 12

(A) Identify the barriers that must be overcome for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on assessments.

Some of the key barriers that must be overcome at this school include:

- Difficulty in scheduling and finding more time to provide teacher/staff collaboration that would support improved student learning
- Declining enrollment that reduces funding and access to additional services and supports for students
- Special Education funding shortfall has limited supports of our highest need students
- An increasing level of social emotional challenges and needs of students
- Adequate time and funding for curriculum resource professional development.

(B) Identify the budget actions that should be taken to address and remove those barriers.

This school faces a number of budget challenges when determining how to allocate funds to best meet the needs of our students. Given our population, the following budget considerations could have the biggest impact on student achievement.

- Increased salary to recruit and retain high quality certified and classified staff
- Additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and SEL needs of all students
- Increased funding and time for staff development
- Additional substitute teachers for teacher release time
- Increase paraeducator support in special education classrooms
- Increase funding for Pre-K programs
- Allocating budget to focus on prevention, detection and intervention concerning trauma and mental health issues

(C) Identify the amount of time the board estimates it will take for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on the state assessments if the budget actions would be implemented.

We measure growth each year and document in our KESA plans our success on a variety of student success factors. We emphasize growth and strive to lead the world in the success of each student. Although we do this and are proud of the work we do, many factors make it impossible to estimate a time that every student will achieve a definition of grade level proficiency. Such factors include:

- The current and future levels of school funding have a significant impact on student learning and any increases or decreases have an affect on student success. Any changes to those funding levels, in either direction, impact the ability of students to meet proficiency criteria.
- Lack of constitutional funding of special education continues to impact our ability to fully meet the needs of all students
- While assessment scores are one measure, our school does not believe that student assessment scores should be the sole measure of student proficiency
- Many of the factors that affect student success, such as trauma, poverty, mental health and student disabilities, are out of the local board's control, so giving a time estimate on things that consistently change, or are under the control of other agencies, is not a realistic practice of a local school board.

496 Pawnee Heights State Assessment Review for Budget Considerations

496 Pawnee Heights District Summary

(A) Identify the barriers that must be overcome for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on assessments.

There are always a number of challenges that should be considered when evaluating student success in a district. Some of the key barriers that impact our School District include, but are not limited to:

- Difficulty in scheduling and finding more time to provide teacher/staff collaboration that would support improved student learning
- High percentage/number of free and reduced students and increased poverty rate
- Declining enrollment that reduces funding and access to additional services and supports for students
- Difficulty in retaining and attracting highly qualified teachers and replacing teachers as they retire
- Lack of or limited access to community health services and mental health services
- Special Education funding shortfall has limited supports of our highest need students
- Lack of instructional time or changes in instructional opportunities faced during the COVID pandemic created learning loss
- Maintaining aging facilities and infrastructure require funds that could be used for student learning.

(B) Identify the budget actions that should be taken to address and remove those barriers.

Our School District faces a number of budget challenges when determining how to allocate funds to best meet the needs of our students. Given our population, the following budget considerations could have the biggest impact on student achievement:

- Increased salary to recruit and retain high quality certified and classified staff
- Increase paraeducator support in special education classrooms
- Increase funding for Pre-K programs
- The district needs more classroom and office space to accommodate more programs and personnel.

(C) Identify the amount of time the board estimates it will take for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on the state assessments if the budget actions would be implemented.

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