

Yale Public Schools

“Home of the Bulldogs”



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For the past 15 years, I have had the honor and privilege to call Yale Public Schools and the Yale community family. Being the Superintendent for the past two years has brought many new celebrations but some challenges as well. In an attempt to be as transparent as possible, we have tried to compile a list of things that have been happening over the last several years. We have been blessed by receiving over \$500,000 in grants over the past two years. We have been able to use the grant funds in connection with our Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to provide many different opportunities for our students. ESSER funds were a one-time allocation from the state/federal government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our financial goal is to use every single dollar to benefit as many students as possible in as many ways as possible.

These additional funds have been a blessing and have allowed us to better serve our students. These funds have really helped with budgeting because our State aid was down this year by nearly \$235,000. Our State aid is tied directly to our enrollment numbers. While this decrease in funds will impact budgeting, we have a plan in place for handling the budget cut, and Yale Public Schools will continue to meet the needs of our students.

We have been utilizing our funds to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff. Please look over the attached list for more details on the use of our funds. Even with the funds mentioned above, Yale Public Schools still has many needs. Our plan is to put together a bond initiative to be voted on in the Spring of 2025. The exact scope of the bond has not yet been determined. Between now and the Spring of 2025, we plan to survey the community and also hold community meetings in order to gather as much information and answer as many questions as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out by email. My email address is rkennedy@yale.k12.ok.us If you'd rather visit in person, please feel free to stop by my office. I'd love to hear from you.

Curriculum

- Staff is working to identify the Essential Standards for all content areas
 - The next steps will be as follows:
 - Breakdown Essential Standards into common language
 - Identify all learning targets within the Essential Standards
 - Create assessments to track progress
 - Use data folders to monitor student progress
- The staff meets weekly for PLC time
 - Time is used to discuss curriculum
 - Time is used to discuss student needs
- After-school tutoring is available for all students
 - Available most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until 4:00
 - Arrangements can be made with individual teachers.
- Concurrent Enrollment is available for all 9-12 grade students
 - Available through Oklahoma Christian University
 - Courses are completely online and self-paced
 - Course cost \$200
- Summer school is available for K-8th grade students
 - Will start May 16 and run through June 9
 - Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-3:00.
 - Breakfast will be served at 8:00 and lunch will be served at 11:30
 - Bus transportation is available
 - 8:30-11:30 will focus on reading and math instruction
 - 12:00-3:00 will focus on extra-curricular activities
 - Swimming
 - Library reading program
 - YYSA activities
 - FFA/4-H activities
 - Counseling

Technology

- 2021-2022 we had a new server installed for the district using ESSER III funds.
- 2021-2022 we installed 2 Promethean boards in our resource rooms
- 2021-2022 we ordered 125 chromebooks and 75 hotspots using an Emergency Connectivity Fund grant (ECF)
- 2022-2023 we ordered 125 chromebooks and 75 Ipads using an ECF grant
- 2022-2023 we ordered 10 new computer towers to bolster our camera system using our Stronger Connections Grant.

Transportation

- 2022 new bus was purchased using ESSER III funds
- 2023 new bus was purchased using ESSER III funds
- 2024 new bus was purchased using ESSER III funds
- 2023 new Ag truck has been ordered and will be purchased using ESSER II & III funds

Facilities

- New hitting barn for baseball and softball
 - Contains restrooms and a concession stand area
- Elementary playground has been repaved using a Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust grant (TSET)
- The Payne County United Way completed several projects for us
 - Reconditioned the softball bleachers
 - Painted the main hallway of the elementary school
 - Painted the outside storage buildings
 - Spread new rubber mulch around the playground equipment
 - Installed new swings on the elementary playground
- Receiving quotes to improve our current HVAC system
- Elementary playground has been fenced in
- Looking into different options to better secure the doors in the high school building

Budget Planning

- 2021-22 we received the Expanded Learning Grant worth approximately \$185,000 for a three year period.
 - 2022 Summer Enrichment Program= \$65,000
 - 2023 Summer Enrichment Program= \$60,000
 - 2024 Summer Enrichment Program= \$60,000

- 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year we took advantage of the ECF Grant worth approximately \$141,00
 - 250 new chromebooks for 1st-12th grade students
 - 75 new Ipads for PreK-K
- 2022-23 TSET grant worth \$15,000
 - Elementary playground repaved
- 2022-23 Recipient of a Stronger Connections Grant worth approximately \$161,000
 - 2022-23 10 new computer towers to improve the camera system
 - 2023-24 Trauma Informed Learning professional development for all staff
 - 2024-25 Bullying Prevention professional development for all staff
 - 2025-26 Social-Emotional Learning professional development for all staff
 - 2023-26 Additional support from our School Resource Officer
 - 2023-26 Additional counseling support for our students
- The town of Lone Chimney has made yearly donations to the school that have allowed us to purchase school supplies for all of our students.

Superintendent Advisory Committee

- In the Spring of 2022 we started a new committee to help foster communication between the school and the community. This group generally meets once a month to discuss a wide array of topics. Currently the members of the committee are:
 - Miranda Brown
 - Pastor Mich Dershem
 - Brian Porter
 - Jessica Crowe
 - Atlanta Reece
 - Linda Foutch
- If anyone else would like to be a part of the conversation, please feel free to reach out. My email is listed above. I would be happy to include you in our meeting alerts or answer any questions that you might have about the committee. You can also reach out to any member of the committee regarding questions that you may have.

Respectfully,
 Rocky Kennedy
 Superintendent
 Yale Public Schools