



**Shuler Education Center**

5928 SW 53rd Street  
Topeka, KS 66610  
785.339.4000  
785.339.4025 fax  
www.usd437.net

**Dr. Scott McWilliams**  
Superintendent

**Dr. Jeff DeSota**  
Executive Director  
Learning Services

**Chelsea Clark**  
Executive Director  
Human Resources

**Rich Jones**  
Executive Director  
Operations

**Brett Bauer, CPA**  
Executive Director  
Business Services

**Jessica Roberts**  
Director of Communications

Auburn-Washburn School Community,

We are thrilled to share with you Auburn-Washburn School District's five-year strategic plan. Strategic Plan 2026 provides focus to our commitment to inspire, challenge, and prepare our students during years 2021 - 2026. The benefits of strategic planning are to:

- Set and achieve lofty student goals;
- Establish clear direction, laser focus, and district priorities;
- Focus energy, effort, and resources on mutually agreed outcomes;
- Ensure effective communication, collaboration, and targeted support among staff and stakeholders on all aspects of the plan; and
- Annually assess and adjust our direction in response to results and changing conditions.

Strategic Plan 2026 will help create district and community focus so that we can systematically coordinate and align resources and actions with our Mission, Vision, Core Values and Student Goals.

The most important part about Strategic Plan 2026 is that it was built from feedback provided from all stakeholder groups; it is truly a community effort. Thirty (30) Strategic Planning meetings were held throughout the Auburn-Washburn school community from October 2019 – January 2020 with the Board of Education, students, staff, parents, Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State Department of Education, Topeka Chamber, Washburn University and Washburn Tech, and local business leaders. In total, nearly 1,000 Auburn-Washburn stakeholders participated in strategic planning meetings.

This is a comprehensive five-year plan but it will be reviewed and assessed annually and adjustments will be made, as needed, so that it remains current, relevant, and in the best interest of our students. By working together and being engaged as a school community, we are confident that this plan will allow us to continue inspiring, challenging, and preparing every child, every day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Smith".

Bryan Smith  
Board President, 2024-25

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott McWilliams".

Dr. Scott McWilliams  
Superintendent of Schools



## **2024-25 Board of Education**

Bryan Smith, President

Jeremy Wiltz, Vice-President

Tom Bruno

Jacquie Lightcap

Brad Noller

Michael White

Board Member District 2B (*vacant at time of publication*)

### **Mission**

Auburn-Washburn strives to deliver exemplary, world-class education for all students, instilling in them the academic knowledge, skills for success, and character required to be happy, responsible and productive citizens.

### **Vision**

Auburn-Washburn schools provide a safe, enjoyable, and challenging school environment where students have the opportunity to achieve their maximum individual education potential. All students receive a balanced education where traditional academics are taught, creativity and innovation are cultivated, and skills for success are developed; preparing them to assume roles as responsible citizens in a global community, the workplace, and in life.

### **Core Values**

We believe learning is a lifelong process. The following values will help realize our vision:

1. We believe in the value and uniqueness of each student:
  - a. Each student has different needs.
  - b. Each student should have the opportunity, and be encouraged, to reach their potential.
  - c. Each student is entitled to a safe, current, and well-maintained school environment.
2. We believe that excellence in education is a multifaceted process:
  - a. Excellence requires building meaningful relationships with all stakeholders and especially with students.
  - b. Excellence requires the commitment and judicious stewardship of community resources.
  - c. Excellence prepares students to become happy, responsible, and productive citizens; to successfully live and work in a complex, ever-changing world.
  - d. Excellence is a combination of academic performance and skills for success.
  - e. Excellence must be a dynamic and engaging process in order to meet changing needs.
  - f. Excellence requires rigorous assessment and feedback of both students and staff.
  - g. Excellence requires focus on the future.
  - h. Excellence depends upon effective resource management.
  - i. Excellence, both academic and skills for success, should be recognized and celebrated.
3. We believe that respect and responsibility are essential components of an excellent education:
  - a. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.
  - b. Effective communication enhances trust and cooperation.
  - c. Each student is responsible for their own actions.

- d. Responsibility for public education rests jointly with students, parents, teachers, and community.

**Student Goals that will guide our work on curriculum, instruction, assessment, and high achievement.**

**Goal 1 – Challenging Every Student: To improve the academic performance of each student.**

High academic performance is the cornerstone of the Auburn-Washburn School District. Student achievement in Auburn-Washburn is consistently above the state average on the Kansas State Assessments and above the national average on the ACT. Goal 1, to improve the academic performance of each student, will be measured in the following ways:

**Elementary Academic Measurements**

1. Mathematics
  - a. Grades 3-6 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Grades K-6 Aimsweb; given three times per year
2. English Language Arts/Reading
  - a. Grades 3-6 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Grades K-6 Aimsweb; given three times per year

**Washburn Middle School Academic Measurements**

1. Mathematics
  - a. Grades 7-8 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Grades 7-8 MAP Assessment; given three times per year
2. English Language Arts/Reading
  - a. Grades 7-8 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Grades 7-8 MAP Assessment; given three times per year

**Washburn Rural High School Academic Measurements**

1. Mathematics
  - a. Grade 10 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Integrated Math I and II students MAP Assessment; given three times per year
  - c. ACT Subset Score in Math; provided with ACT results
2. English Language Arts/Reading
  - a. Grade 10 Kansas Assessment Program; given one time per year
  - b. Grades 9-10 MAP Assessment; given three times per year
  - c. ACT Subset Score in ELA; provided with ACT results
3. ACT Composite Score / Number of Students taking ACT
4. Percent of Students Graduating College and Career Ready (defined by)
  - a. Earning 12 college hours through concurrent enrollment course completion, or
  - b. Successful completion of Advanced Placement courses and/or IB program credits equivalent to 12 college hours
  - c. Earning a Career and Technical Education credential
  - d. Military Service – successful matriculation from basic training to active duty

5. Five-Year Post-Secondary Data as defined by the Kansas Department of Education
  - a. Five-year graduation rate + five-year success rate + five-year effectiveness rate evaluated against a predicted effectiveness rate. This measurement was created by and will be updated annually by KSDE.

**Goal 2 – Preparing Every Student: To develop “Portrait of a Learner” attributes with each student.**

Auburn-Washburn stakeholder feedback clearly stated that it takes more than high academic achievement to best prepare students to become happy and responsible citizens in a global community, the workplace, and in life. Our task for Strategic Plan 2026 will be to engage the Auburn-Washburn school community in identifying “Portrait of a Learner” attributes that will be applicable at all grade levels; elementary, middle and high. “Portrait of a Learner” will represent our community’s vision for the 21st century skills, character traits, and social-emotional competencies that students need to be successful. Common language centered on these attributes from kindergarten through graduation will provide clarity and consistency for parents, students, and staff.

**District opportunities that will guide our work on current and future facility and programmatic needs so our school community can prioritize and make strategic long-term capital decisions.**

Based on staff and community feedback, the following areas were identified as District Opportunities:

**Birth to Age 5**

To increase the number of age three and four year-old students enrolled in early childhood programs so each student enters kindergarten at age five socially, emotionally and academically prepared for success.

**Social-Emotional Needs**

To identify successful ways to address students’ social-emotional needs and to seek factors within our education system that impact students’ social-emotional needs.

**Instruction and Programming**

Target student engagement strategies, integrate financial literacy standards, and integrate technology at each grade level.

**Career and Technical Education**

Create ways for students to learn in innovation-focused, industry-standard work spaces and to collaborate with local business partners and skilled professionals.

**School Capacity and Configuration**

Develop a Master Facility Plan that will guide our work on current and future on facility and programmatic needs.