

# District's Top Ten List



## 1. Student Achievement

The Wichita Public Schools has increased student achievement for the 10th consecutive year. Based on preliminary 2007 Kansas State Assessment data, nearly every academic achievement indicator has increased, in some cases significantly.

## 2. Safe School Environment

Providing a safe school environment for our students is of utmost importance. As a result of our on-going commitment to quality learning environments, 92 percent of Wichita parents believe our schools are safe places for children to learn.

## 3. Improved Facilities

In the year 2000, Wichita voters passed the state's largest bond issue, a \$285 million measure to significantly enhance district facilities. As a result, the district has gained 29 FEMA saferooms, more than 150 science labs, 21 libraries, 2 new schools in northeast Wichita, 5 reconstructed schools in Wichita's core area and removal of 227 portable classroom buildings.

## 4. Top Academic Honors in Kansas

The Standard of Excellence is our state's highest academic honor for schools, based on their performance on the annual Kansas state assessments. Twenty-one schools in our district earned Standard of Excellence distinction in 2006.

## 5. Quality Teachers

There is no question that the success of our students hinges on the quality teachers who lead and challenge them every day. Extraordinary educators can be found throughout the WPS, including:

- Kansas Teacher of the Year finalists,
- Milken Family Foundation National Educator award recipients,
- Honorees for the Presidential Award of Excellence in both Math and Science,
- Regional and national teacher of the year honorees in aerospace education, engineering, physical education, economics, entrepreneurship and the arts,
- Fulbright Scholars (superintendent, principal, teacher).

## 6. Business Partnerships

Wichita's business community has a strong tradition of support for the WPS. Education is a priority for businesses which provide tutors, mentors, state-of-the-art equipment and financial resources to the district and our 102 educational sites.

## 7. Schools of Choice

Whether parents choose their neighborhood school or one of the district's 24 magnet programs focusing on a wide variety of interests, students are sure to receive an outstanding student-centered experience. For more information visit the district's Web site at [www.usd259.com](http://www.usd259.com).

## 8. Rich in Diversity

WPS embraces its responsibility to educate 12 percent of all Kansas students in an environment rich with cultural, economic and academic diversity.

## 9. Student Connectedness

Our size affords WPS students unique opportunities unavailable in other districts including: 28 interscholastic sports programs; International Baccalaureate high school program; extensive arts programs (visual, theater, vocal and instrumental); after school programs in collaboration with the Wichita YMCA; JROTC and middle school leadership; extensive honors and AP courses; AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and many more.

## 10. Education EDGE

The Wichita Public Schools celebrates a major fundraising milestone with more than \$1.4 million committed to the Education EDGE. Twenty Corporate Founders, consisting of major businesses, foundations and philanthropic leaders in Wichita, have contributed \$50,000 or more to the Education EDGE to support classroom mini-grants, fine arts and athletics.

