



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Wichita Public Schools, Unified School Dist. #259**

**Kansas**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**July 1, 2006**

Handwritten signature of the President of the GFOA.

President

Handwritten signature of the Executive Director of the GFOA.

Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an award of Distinguished Budget Presentation to Unified School District No. 259 for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and a communications device. The award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

### 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.

## **THE DISTRICT'S AWARDS FOR FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE**

The Wichita Public Schools Financial Services Division has a history of earning recognition for the quality of its work. Following is a sample of a few of the division's distinctions.

- Government Finance Officers Association, Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, fourteen consecutive years.
- Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports, fourteen consecutive years.
- Kansas Association of School Boards Publications Competition, Award of Excellence, awarded to the "Budget at a Glance" publication for two consecutive years.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This book was prepared by the Wichita Public Schools Financial Services Division, in cooperation with the Marketing and Communications Division and Operations Division, for the benefit of our community. We would like to extend a thank you to those who participated in helping develop this document. Listed below are the committees or offices that contributed to the publishing of this budget document:

School Building Site Councils

Building Principals

Program/Fund Budget Committees

Program/Fund Budget Managers

Marketing and Communications – Document Cover and Watermarks

School Service Center Print Center

Budget Office Staff

Administrative Budget Review Committee

## **CONTACTING THE BUDGETING OFFICE**

Budgeting Web Page: <http://www.usd259.com/offices/finance/>

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