



2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CSDGKC MISSION

The mission of the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City is to leverage our members' combined strengths to provide high-quality and cost-effective services and resources to maximize learning for all students.

Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City

Forty-two years and still growing in service to school districts

While the nation's attention was locked in on the year-long celebration of the country's bicentennial celebration in 1976, 16 school districts in this area launched an initiative focused on working together in areas where there was strength in numbers.

Known at its outset simply as "the co-op," the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City (CSDGKC) had the humblest of beginnings, as school district leaders volunteered their time and brainpower to bring together a common message to legislators in Jefferson City.

For 31 years – with the help of a part-time lobbyist – the sole focus of the volunteer-led group of school districts and administrators was to create an annual legislative platform and monitor activity in the state capital. That all changed in 2007.

That was the year that Dr. Gayden Carruth was hired as executive director, the organization was renamed Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City and the services slowly began to expand, based on the needs of member districts and the revenue available to the organization.

In the last 11 years alone, CSDGKC has grown to 33 full member districts (with the addition of Lee A. Tolbert, Lexington and Mid-Buchanan this year). While the legislative monitoring and lobbying that were the reason for the launch of "the co-op" remain as important – if not more important – today, the programs and services that have been added demonstrate the responsiveness to CSDGKC member needs.

The current status of these programs is detailed throughout this annual report. They include the following:

- A self-insurance program that now includes five districts.
- The CSD Retirement Trust, with seven members, along with active interest and due diligence underway by a number of other districts.
- A College Credit Review program, to provide for salary schedule sustainability.
- The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), a joint effort with LINC (Local Investment Commission) that trains current and future education leaders in the process of policy development and collaborative skill building.
- The Professional Development Network's e-Magazine, which contains detailed information about the variety of seminars available through the PDN.
- Annual economic impact studies that help school districts demonstrate what they really bring to their local economies.
- Cooperative purchasing programs that bring costs down for all districts – large and small.
- CSDGKC's regular surveys of members on hot topics, plus its annual survey of school district data.
- And the dissemination of weekly legislative reports penned by Steve Carroll.

All of these services are provided for \$2.00 per student – a fee which has actually decreased from the \$2.10 it was in 2007.

"As I look back on how far we have come and how far we can go, I am reminded of this saying, 'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. But working together is success,'" said Dr. Carruth. "I am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish – together – and believe we have much more success in our future."

Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) now in its fourth year

In partnership with the Local Investment Commission (LINC), CSDGKC once again led the 10-month long Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP).



“I enjoyed learning how to use social media to connect with targeted audiences.”

This year’s class of 20 current and emerging administrative leaders took a deep dive into areas such as leadership skills, understanding how policy is made and influenced at the federal, state and local level, and building their own networking skills with their classmates.

As always, the program included a field trip to Fort Leavenworth to the U.S. Army’s Command and General Staff College for Leadership Development and Strategic Thinking. The group also made the annual visit to Washington, D.C. for a three-day Policy Seminar. This year’s trip included a visit with Representative Emanuel Cleaver in his office in D.C.

“I appreciated learning about my style of leadership and how to identify and affirm others.”

Economic impact of school districts remains strong, steady

When you add up payroll, benefits, construction projects, capital spending on technology, transportation and food service, it’s easy to see why school districts are a major economic engine driving their communities.

The sixth year of CSDGKC’s Economic Impact Study confirmed this, by pinpointing at least \$2.2 billion that made its way into local economies during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. This data is a powerful tool that school districts can use whenever there are questions about their true financial impact on a community.

For more information or to receive a copy of the study results, please contact CSDGKC.

PDN continues to expand programming and presenters

Now boasting 40 participating school districts, the Professional Development Network (PDN) of the Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City had more than 1,100 participants for its varied programming this past year.

Nationally known speakers – some who have made annual appearances – for the PDN included Greg Tang, Ellin Keene, Debbie Miller, Scott Poland, Richard Lieberman, Michael Wysession, Obie Marti, Michael Heithaus, Julie Sweeney and Terry Clinefelter. National speakers were hosted by Blue Springs, Center, Crossroads, Lee’s Summit, and Park Hill.

Local school districts also made their own experts available for no-cost PDN workshops. The PDN would like to thank the following for taking the time to do so:

- Molly Ticknor, Director of Mental Health Services, Kansas City Public Schools
- Dr. Lisa Freisen, District Instructional Coordinator, North Kansas City Schools
- Dr. Julie Jensen and Jill Rice, Instructional Technology Specialists, Lee’s Summit R-7 School District

The PDN will also be expanding its Lab Classroom initiative to include a fourth group for the 2018-2019 school year. Presented by Ellin Keene and Debbie Miller, the districts that have participated to date include Belton, Blue Springs, Chillicothe, Crossroads, Fort Osage, Grain Valley, Independence, Kansas City, Lee’s Summit, Lexington, Liberty, North Kansas City, Park Hill, Platte County and Raymore-Peculiar. Special thanks to Edmentum and Scholastic for their support of the Lab Classroom project.

And due to the popularity of the first Greg Tang Workshop Series for grades K-2, a second version was offered this year for teachers in grades 5-8. This coming year, a third version will be conducted for teachers in K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.

Each session features six days of intensive math workshops, spread out over a year. The first two years had more than 120 participants and that number will grow exponentially in year three with three different cohort groups.

The first two years’ participating districts were Adrian, Center, Excelsior Springs, Fort Osage, Grain Valley, Grandview, Harrisonville, Hickman Mills, Independence, Kansas City, Lee’s Summit, Lexington, Liberty, Platte County, Raymore-Peculiar, Raytown, St. Therese and Wellington-Napoleon.



Retirement trust membership grows to seven

Saving time and money while ensuring compliance with 403(b) and 457(b) regulations was enticing enough for the Kearney School District to join the CSD Retirement Trust this year. Other members are Grain Valley, Harrisonville, Kansas City, Lee's Summit, Liberty and Smithville. More than 5,700 employees and retirees with more than \$138 million in plan assets make up the Trust, making it an attractive alternative to managing these funds and this process on your own.

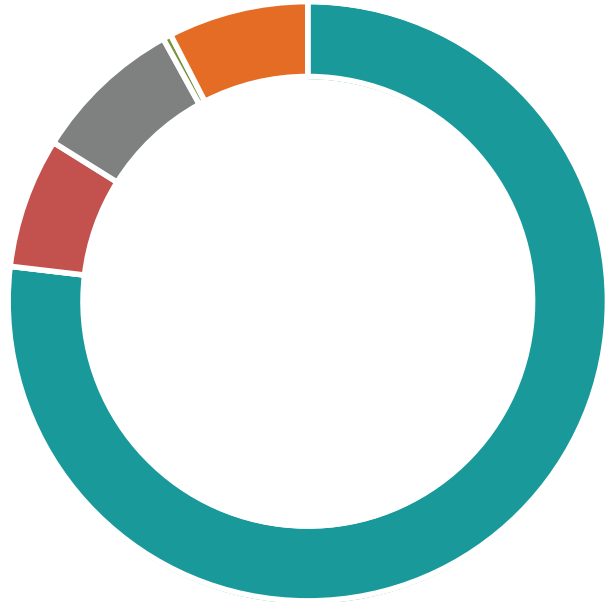
Another year, another clean audit for CSDGKC

In its third year of performing this service, Marr and Company, P.C., Kansas City once again returned a clean audit for CSDGKC, based on its review of the organization's finances and financial practices. A clean audit has been a tradition for CSDGKC, but the organization's leadership praised the Marr and Company auditors for their meticulous approach to the process these last three years.

As a reminder, CSDGKC Board of Directors members receive monthly financial statements with explanations of any changes or variances, so there are no surprises when it comes time for the audit.

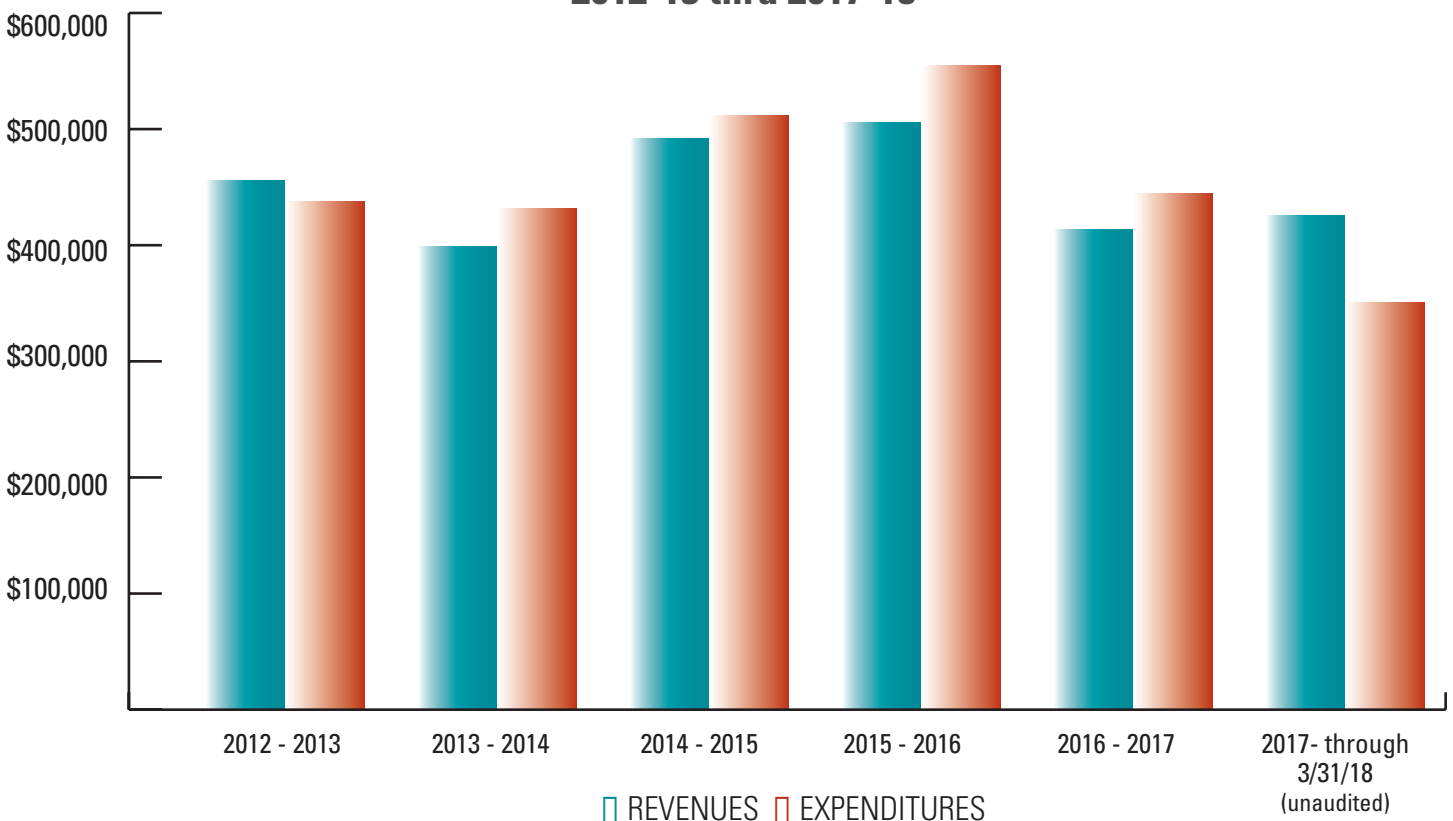


Revenues 2017-18 through 3/31/18



- Membership Dues
- Associate/Affiliate Membership Dues
- SIPGKC
- Purchasing Program
- Rebates/Administrative Service Fees

CSDGKC Actual Revenues vs. Expenditures 2012-13 thru 2017-18



**CSDGKC 2017-2018
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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CSDGKC Board President
Superintendent
Park Hill School District

Ms. Rhonda Gilstrap
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Board Member
Blue Springs School District

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Board Member
Smithville School District

Dr. Allan Markley
CSDGKC Director
Superintendent
Raytown School District

Dr. Bill Nicely
CSDGKC Director
Superintendent
Kearney School District

CSDGKC LEADERSHIP

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Three districts become full members of CSDGKC

This year saw the addition of Lee A. Tolbert, Lexington and Mid-Buchanan School Districts as full members of CSDGKC, bringing the total to 33.

FULL MEMBERS OF CSDGKC

Adrian
Archie
Belton
Blue Springs
Center
Excelsior Springs
Fort Osage
Grain Valley
Grandview
Harrisonville
Hickman Mills
Independence
Kansas City
Kearney
Knob Noster
Lathrop
Lee A. Tolbert
Lee's Summit
Lexington
Liberty
Lone Jack
Mid-Buchanan
North Kansas City
Oak Grove
Park Hill
Platte County
Pleasant Hill
Raymore-Peculiar
Raytown
Richmond
Sherwood Cass
Smithville
West Platte

PDN-ONLY MEMBERS

Academy for Integrated Arts
Chillicothe
Crossroads
Genesis
Guadalupe Centers
Kansas City International
Academy
St. Therese

SIPGKC MEMBERS

Blue Springs
Grain Valley
Hickman Mills
Lone Jack
Smithville



CSD Retirement Trust Members

Grain Valley
Harrisonville
Kansas City
Kearney
Lee's Summit
Liberty
Smithville

Two companies added to Basic Membership list of corporate supporters

CSDGKC welcomed D.F. Osborne Construction and Navitas to the family this year in the Basic membership category.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Metropolitan Community College
Western Governors University -
Missouri

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Platinum Membership
ConvergeOne
EdCounsel, LLC
Guin Mundorf, LLC

Gold Membership

BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City

Silver Membership

k12itc

Bronze Membership

Hollis + Miller Architects

Basic Membership

ACI Boland Architects
CBIZ
D.F. Osborne Construction
McCownGordon Construction
Navitas
Patron Insight
Security Benefit
VALIC

