



## 2018-2019 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

## Welcoming new executive director Kenny Southwick

### *With gratitude to Gayden Carruth as she retires from CSDGKC*

As we move into the 2019-20 school year, Cooperating School Districts is making a transition from one outstanding public education leader to another. Dr. Gayden Carruth, who has served as executive director of CSDGKC for 11 years, is officially retiring on Aug. 31. Stepping into the leadership role is Dr. Kenny Southwick, a long-time educator in both Missouri and Kansas. Dr. Southwick is beginning his new job with CSDGKC in Sept. 2019 with both Dr. Carruth and Dr. Southwick working together throughout the summer to ensure a smooth transition.

Dr. Southwick will retire as deputy superintendent from the Shawnee Mission School District in July 2019, where he has worked for five years as both deputy and interim superintendent. Before moving to the Kansas district, he worked as a teacher, counselor, coach and district administrator within the Maryville, Excelsior Springs and Belton school districts, finishing his career in Missouri public education as Belton's superintendent.

Dr. Southwick was honored among *Ingram's* Icons of Education for 2017 and received the University Council for Educational Administration's Excellence in Educational Leadership award. He earned his bachelor's degree from William Jewell College, his master's degree in guidance and counseling from Northwest Missouri State University and a doctorate in education from the University of Kansas.

During Dr. Carruth's 11 years as CSDGKC's executive director, she has worked to expand the organization's membership and its services in order to better assist our 32 districts and meet the changing needs within public schools.

An educator for 47 years, Dr. Carruth has served as a teacher, principal and district administrator in Mississippi, Minnesota, Virginia and Missouri. Within the metropolitan area, she served as Park Hill School District's superintendent from 1994 through her retirement from the district in 2005.

Dr. Carruth was named 1998 Superintendent of the Year by the Missouri Association of School Administrators and was recognized among *Ingram's* 2014 Icons of Education. Within Cooperating School Districts, she also served as co-leader of the Education Policy Fellowship Program, a 10-month training opportunity for current and emerging leaders.

Carruth said her goal has always been to help improve the quality of education for children. "What I feel best about is that in every position I've held, I left that organization better than it was when I arrived," she added.

Dr. Dennis Carpenter, president of the Cooperating School Districts Board and Lee's Summit R-7 School District superintendent, had praise for both Dr. Carruth and Dr. Southwick.

"We are grateful to Gayden for providing the visionary leadership that allowed Cooperating School Districts to help our member districts work together on behalf of all our schools and educational communities," Dr. Carpenter said. "Although we will dearly miss Gayden in the executive director's role, I believe we have found an ideal leader to continue and build upon our organization's accomplishments."



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**- Dr. Carpenter**

## Through PDN, districts combine resources and share expertise

Several dozen school districts in the metropolitan area are combining resources and sharing expertise to enhance professional development for our community's educators. Through Cooperating School District's Professional Development Network (PDN), more than 1,100 educators from 40 school districts participated in a variety of workshops during 2018-19.

Over the years, the Professional Development Network has hosted a number of nationally recognized presenters with this past year's experts including Greg Tang, Ellin Keene and Debbie Miller.

Due to the overwhelming success of Greg Tang's Workshop Series, a fourth session will be offered this coming year for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Over the past three years, more than 300 participants have benefited from the year-long experience which includes six days of intensive math workshops. Participating districts have included 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, Wellington-Napoleon and West Platte.

In addition to these nationally recognized speakers, local school districts support the Professional Development Network by making their own expert educators available for no-cost workshops. We are grateful to the following professionals and their districts for participating in this project:

- Dr. Stephanie Amaya, director of professional studies, Park Hill School District
- Dr. Lisa Friesen, Casi Hodge and Paula Keltner, district instructional coordinators, and Janelle Porter, director of student services, North Kansas City School District
- Dr. Lisa Janeway, 7-12 ELA curriculum specialist, and Anne Stichnoth, K-6 ELA curriculum specialist, Lee's Summit School District
- Dr. Jeanette Westfall, executive director of curriculum, instruction and staff development, and Tara Harvey, Carrie Gabriel and Ashley Duvall, innovation and learning coaches, Liberty School District.

## Annual legislative dinner emphasizes appreciation and advocacy

Building relationships and advocating for public schools are among the goals of Cooperating School District's annual Legislative Dinner. The event, traditionally held during November, was moved to Jan. 31 this year to better accommodate the legislators' schedules.



The dinner, held each year at Delta Woods Middle School in Blue Springs, also provides administrators and school board members with the opportunity to thank the legislators for their public service. Because of the January date, education leaders were able to informally discuss the 2019 Missouri General Assembly session, which began on Jan. 9.

The 2019 event included 12 elected officials from the Missouri House and Senate as well as staff members from the offices of U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver and U.S. Rep. Sam Graves.

## Self-Insurance Pool provides participating districts with advantage

Four school districts are taking advantage of Cooperating School District's Self-Insurance Pool of Greater Kansas City (SiPGKC). Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Hickman Mills and Smithville are current members of the pool which provides participating districts with an advantage in negotiating health insurance benefits and costs.

Employees, their spouses and dependants as well as retirees from the SiPGKC member districts have the opportunity to participate in the health coverage through the pool. The group is chaired by Wayne Krueger, assistant superintendent of support services at the Smithville School District.

If you are interested in how SiPGKC membership can benefit your school district, contact Paul Shrout, Cooperating School District's director of business services, at [pshrout@csdgtk.org](mailto:pshrout@csdgtk.org).



## Cohort examines leadership and policies through Education Policy Fellowship Program

A total of 21 area leaders participated in the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) in 2018-19 with current and emerging leaders taking an in-depth look at numerous factors influencing schools. The participants spent 10 months focusing on areas such as leadership skills, understanding how policies are developed and the influence of local, state and federal organizations on policy. The group also worked together to enhance their own personal networking skills among their classmates.

Since its formation in 2015, the EPFP has included 91 participants from throughout the metropolitan area. The 2018-19 cohort began the year with a retreat in Jefferson City. During October, the group made their annual trip to the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth for a session on Leadership Development and Strategic Thinking.

The Class of 2019 traveled to Washington, D.C., during March for the EPFP's yearly visit to the nation's capitol, which includes a three-day Policy Seminar.

This Education Policy Fellowship Program will be offered to a fifth cohort in 2019-20, continuing a successful partnership with the Local Investment Commission (LINC).

## Retirement Trust improves retirement planning and outcomes for members

Membership in Cooperating School District's Retirement Trust continues to increase, growing to nine members this year. Districts include Grain Valley, Harrisonville, Independence, Kansas City, Kearney, Lee's Summit, Liberty, Platte County and Smithville.

The Trust was created to improve retirement planning and outcomes for school districts and charters while reducing employee fees. In addition to saving time and money for its members, the Retirement Trust ensures compliance with federal income tax regulations for 403(b) and 457(b) plans.

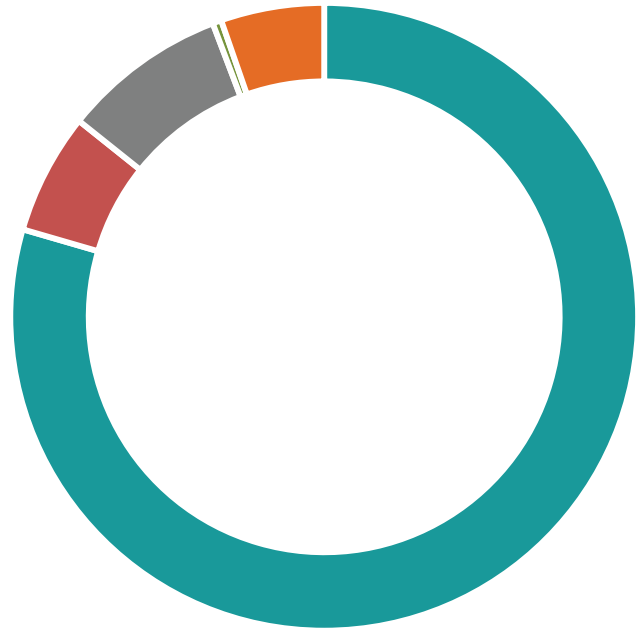
Nearly 6,000 active employees and retirees from 49 school districts and charters with more than \$153 million in plan assets make up the Trust. In the area of performance, the Retirement Trust has been especially successful with investment options, outperforming their peer benchmark in 100 percent of investment categories.

Since the Trust began in 2010, investment management fees have decreased in 94 percent of the Trust's investment options and participant fees have decreased by 59 percent. For example, annual fees for an individual with a \$10,000 account balance decreased from \$140 to just \$52 from January 2010 through December 2017.

The Trust provides districts with a reliable and appealing alternative to managing these funds and processes in-house. Members have also praised the Trust's emphasis on diversified investment options as well as its financial advisors, who focus on educating participants as opposed to selling products.

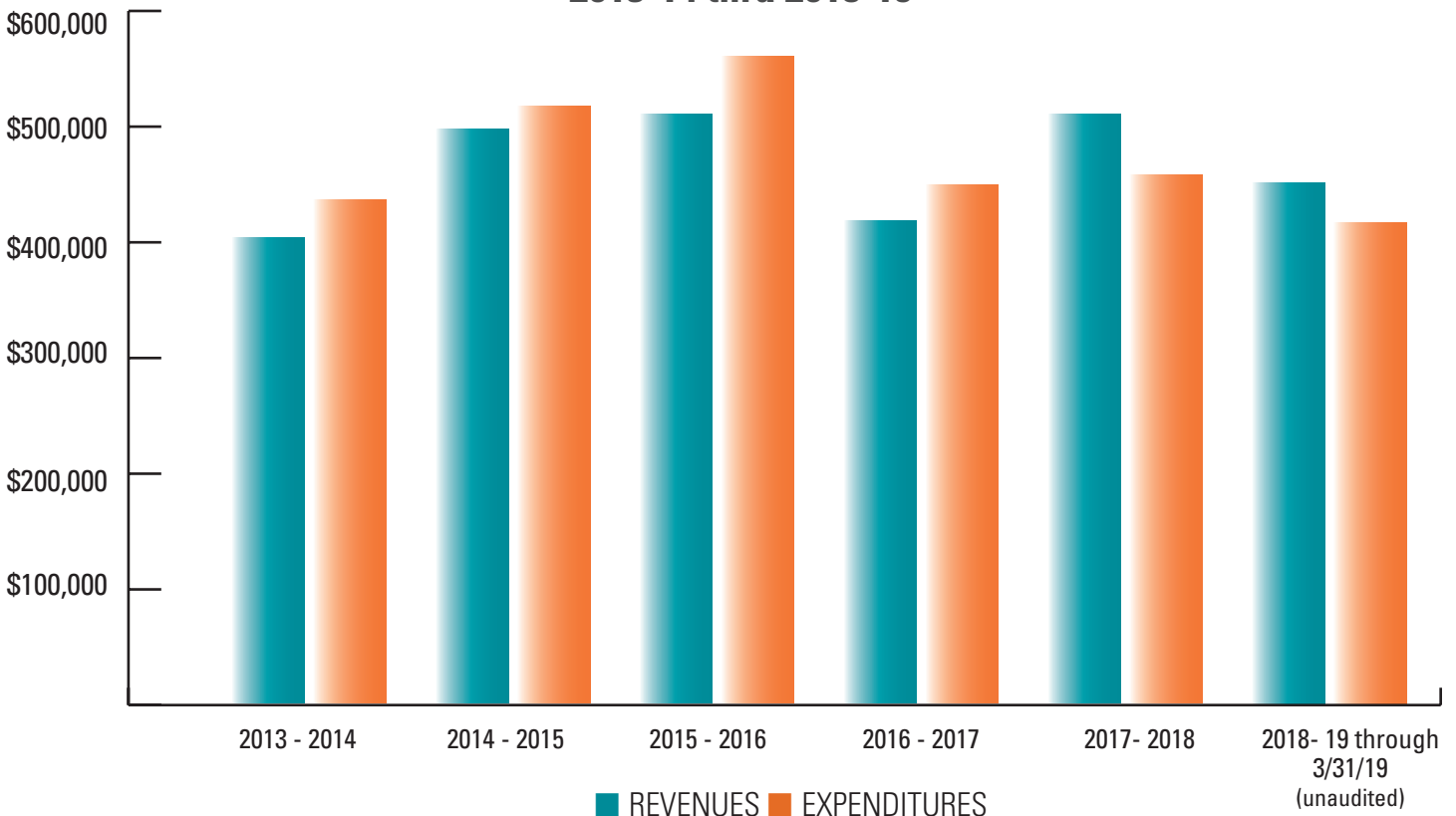
For more information about the CSD Retirement Trust, contact Paul Shrout at (816) 753-7275 or [pshrout@csdgkc.org](mailto:pshrout@csdgkc.org). You may also visit [www.csdrtr.valic.com](http://www.csdrtr.valic.com).

## Revenues 2018-19 through 3/31/19



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

## CSDGKC Actual Revenues vs. Expenditures 2013-14 thru 2018-19



**CSDGKC 2018-19  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Dr. Dennis Carpenter**  
*CSDGKC Board President*  
Superintendent  
Lee's Summit School District

**Mr. Russell Fries**  
*CSDGKC Board Vice President*  
Board Member  
Smithville School District

**Dr. Andrew Underwood**  
*CSDGKC Board President-Elect*  
Superintendent  
Belton School District

**Dr. Dan Clemens**  
*CSDGKC Board Secretary/Treasurer*  
Superintendent  
North Kansas City School District

**Dr. Jeanette Cowherd**  
*CSDGKC Board Immediate Past President*  
Superintendent  
Park Hill School District

**Ms. Beverly Cunningham**  
*CSDGKC Director*  
Board Member  
Center School District

**Mr. Michael Hackett**  
*CSDGKC Director*  
Board Member  
Grain Valley School District

**Dr. Bill Nicely**  
*CSDGKC Director*  
Superintendent  
Kearney School District

**Dr. Mike Reik**  
*CSDGKC Director*  
Superintendent  
Platte County School District

**CSDGKC LEADERSHIP**  
**Dr. Gayden Carruth**  
Executive Director  
gcarruth@csdgkc.org

**Mr. Paul Shrout**  
Director of Business Services  
pshrout@csdgkc.org

**Ms. Liz Sedlock**  
Executive Assistant  
lsedlock@csdgkc.org

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## CSDGKC earns clean audit of organization's finances for fourth consecutive year

As part of a continuing emphasis on good stewardship and solid financial management, CSDGKC undergoes an annual audit by an outside organization. For the fourth year in a row, Cooperating School Districts received a clean audit from Marr and Company, P.C., Kansas City.

Marr and Company completed another thorough review, taking a comprehensive look at our finances, fiscal practices and procedures. In addition to the annual audit, members of the CSDGKC Board of Directors review our organization's monthly financial statements and receive information about any variances or changes related to finances. This helps ensure that Board members are not surprised by any aspect of the audit.

Members of the Board of Directors have been impressed by the company's meticulous approach and voted to award a three-year contract to Marr and Company for the annual audits.

## School districts continue to positively impact local economies

Our districts' positive effect on local communities is remaining strong with a slight increase over last year, according to CSDGKC's seventh annual Economic Impact Study. More than \$2.3 billion flowed into our communities through school district payroll, benefits, construction projects, capital spending on technology, transportation and food service.

The 2017-18 amount is slightly higher than last year's approximately \$2.2 billion in economic benefits. This CSDGKC study further confirms the value of strong public school districts, which are significant economic drivers within communities.

Cooperating School Districts initiated the study several years ago to provide an important tool for districts to share when they receive questions about public schools' financial benefits within communities. If you would like more information or a copy of the study, please contact CSDGKC.

## Members of CSDGKC

### FULL MEMBERS OF CSDGKC

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

### PDN-ONLY MEMBERS

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

### CSD Retirement Trust Members

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

### SIPGKC MEMBERS

Blue Springs  
Grain Valley  
Hickman Mills  
Smithville



## Corporate Supporters

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Metropolitan Community College  
Western Governors University -  
Missouri



### AFFILIATE MEMBERS

#### Platinum Membership

ConvergeOne  
EdCounsel, LLC  
Guin Mundorf, LLC

#### Silver Membership

k12itc

#### Bronze Membership

Hollis + Miller Architects

#### Basic Membership

ACI Boland Architects  
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas City  
CBIZ  
McCownGordon Construction  
Navitas  
Patron Insight  
Security Benefit  
VALIC