



SHOW ME KC SCHOOLS

**FINDING
THE RIGHT
SCHOOL**

WORK BOOK




DeLaSalle Education Center



Guadalupe Centers Schools



Woodland Early Learning



SHOW ME KC SCHOOLS

If you are exploring this workbook, you are probably looking for a school that's a good fit for a student in your life. You've come to the right place! The school landscape in Kansas City is vast, filled with many options for students and families to explore. Here at Show Me KC Schools, we have created four easy steps to guide you through the process:



This workbook aims to give you the tools for making your way through the process. Understanding your options, exploring what is important to you and your family, experiencing schools and finding a great school for your child, right here in KC.

Let's get started!



Learn

Sometimes finding out more about your school options can be confusing. Show Me KC Schools is here to help. First, let's find out what school district you live in. Visit our interactive Kansas City Metro Area School Districts map and enter your address. Visit: www.showmekcschools.org/kansas-city-school-districts/

If you live in Kansas City 33 School District you have different public school options and are eligible to attend a KCPS district school, a charter school and many private school options as well.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



YOUR FAMILY LOGISTICS

It is important to understand your family's schedules and routines to determine what supports will be helpful.

1. Determine what public school district you live in.
2. Does your family need school bus transportation?
3. Do you need before and after care for your student?
4. Where is the school located and what are the bell times?

TRANSPORTATION

X



Most early childhood and preschool programs do not provide transportation. Even though some Pre-K programs are connected to elementary schools, bus transportation usually begins at kindergarten. However, if your child qualifies for early childhood special education they may also qualify for transportation.

Things to Consider

PRESCHOOL

- What are the hours of the facility?
- Do they use a curriculum?
- How will children be prepared for Kindergarten?
- Does your child need special education services?
- Is before and aftercare available? Do they offer summer programming?
- Does the pre-k seat guarantee me a kindergarten seat at a certain school?

PRIMARY

ELEMENTARY

- What are the grade levels served at the schools you are considering?
- Consider your student's K-12 pathway. Elementary, Middle, and High School.
- Are you interested in a specialized program like project based learning, arts integration, foreign language immersion, or Montessori?
- What specials are offered at the school? For example: art, music, gym, band, or orchestra.
- Is there a uniform policy?
- What is the school's curriculum style or learning approach?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- What electives are offered at the school?
- Is a foreign language offered? If so, what languages?
- What sports are offered?
- Are advanced classes an option?
- How many classes do students take each day?
- What classes are required for all students?
- Is there transportation for after-school activities?

SECONDARY

HIGH SCHOOL

- Are you interested in a school with a college prep program?
- Are you interested in having access to programs such as Industry Recognized Credentials or Career Tech?
- Does the school have a robust athletics program?
- Does the high school you are interested in offer the A+ certification program?
- What course options or extracurricular activities are offered at this school?
- How many credits are required for graduation?

How is school quality currently being measured and what is important to my family?

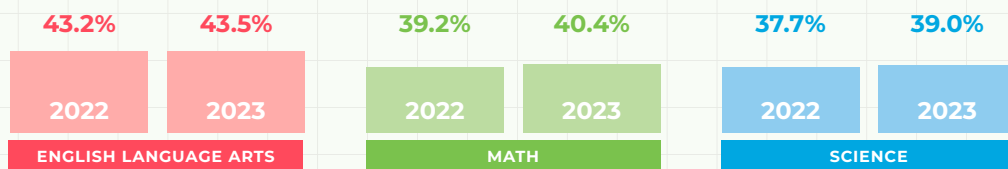
Here at Show Me KC Schools we do not rank schools.

Our mission is to provide you with all the information you need to make a well-informed decision about your students' education. Here are some data points that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) collects on all public schools that can also be found on our website.

With this information, you can begin to build your picture of quality and what is important to your family.

- 1. MAP scores:** (Missouri Assessment Program) are a set of tests that are given to students once a year in the subjects of Math, English, and Science. The MAP assessments test students' progress toward mastery of the Missouri Show-Me Standards.

The graph below shows the percentage of students who tested proficient or advanced in the state of Missouri for the last two school years. You may choose to use these numbers to establish a baseline for a school's performance.



SUBGROUP MAP SCORES

MAP scores for smaller group populations broken out by: race and ethnicity, socio-economics, Special Education students, and English language learners. If your student belongs to one or more of these subgroups, you may want to compare these scores to see how schools you are interested in are serving all students.

- 2. Attendance rates:** Is the average daily attendance rate at a school. This measures percentage of students present 90% of the school year.

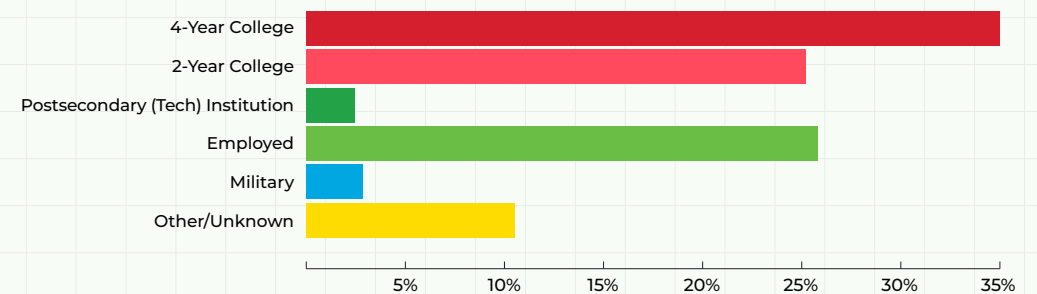


In 2023, 76.6% of all Missouri students were in attendance at least 90% of the time.

TIP!

To see all of these data points visit www.showmekcschools.org and click on the Student Performance tab on each public school profile page.

- 3. Graduation rates:** Is the percentage of students that are on a four-year trajectory for graduation.
- 4. 3rd grade reading scores:** Measures the percentage of students who are reading on grade level by the third grade. (Third grades scores are important because it is the final year children are learning to read, after which students are reading to learn. If they are not proficient readers when they begin fourth grade, as much as half of the curriculum they will be taught will be difficult to comprehend.)
- 5. Growth metrics:** Student growth is the change in academic achievement (as measured by the grade-level Missouri Assessment Program exams in English language arts and mathematics) for an individual student between two or more points in time. The Missouri Growth Model calculates how much students "grew" relative to predictions.
- 6. Student outcomes:** This measures the percentage of graduates who are college or career ready, percentage of graduates who have earned advanced or vocational credits, or percentage of graduates who are employed, in the military or are seeking further education six months after graduation.



This information can be found on the Show Me KC Schools website. Click on any of the public high schools' profiles and then click on the student performance tab. www.showmekcschools.org/schools/?school_cat=school

It can also be found on the DESE website at: www.apps.dese.mo.gov/MCDS/Visualizations.aspx?id=22

FAMILY LOGISTICS

Every family chooses a school for different reasons. We know that logistics is one of the most important factors to consider when choosing a school. How does this school fit into your family's daily routine? Do you need transportation? Does the school offer before and after care? Is breakfast served? These things matter as much as a test score. Consider them carefully when making a decision.

SAMPLE School Priorities + Conversation Organizer

SCHOOLS + VISIT DATES	Happy Acres Elementary	Greentree Elementary	Milbrook Charter	The Saxon Rice School
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MUST HAVES				
Before and After Care		X	X	X
Diversity		X		
Transportation	X	X		X
High third grade reading scores				
Culturally responsive staff				
TOTAL MUST HAVES	1	3	1	2

NICE TO HAVES				
Foreign Language Immersion	X		X	X
NO nightly homework	X	X		
Robust offering of extracurriculars				
High School athletics program				
Robotics club				
TOTAL NICE TO HAVES	2	1	1	1

TOTALS	3	4	2	3
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ADDITIONAL NOTES	Friendly Principal; Warm school environment	College counselor on staff	Students take trips in middle/high school	Lots of parent involvement
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School Priorities + Conversation Organizer

SCHOOLS + VISIT DATES				
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MUST HAVES				
TOTAL MUST HAVES				

NICE TO HAVES				
TOTAL NICE TO HAVES				

TOTALS				
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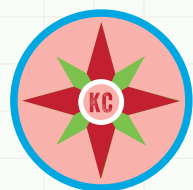
ADDITIONAL NOTES				
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Search

Now that you have determined what you want in a school, it is time to start your search! Learning about the options in your neighborhood and comparing several schools is key to the process. Check out all our resources on this page and let us know if you need help.

ONE-ON-ONE NAVIGATION



Do you have school search questions? Get free help!

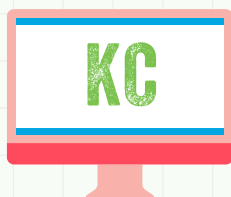
Show Me KC Schools' School Navigators provide **FREE** one-on-one support to parents and caregivers searching for schools in Kansas City.

Contact us with all of your school search questions!

DANIELLE DISPENZA
Call or text (816) 490-1922
hello@showmekcschools.org

CITLALI VALDES
¡Hablo Español!
Text WhatsApp
(816) 885-4657
hola@showmekcschools.org

SEARCH AND COMPARE SCHOOLS ON OUR WEBSITE



Visit us at www.showmekcschools.org to find accurate information about every school in the KCPS boundaries.

PRINTED SCHOOL GUIDE



Pick up our school guide at libraries and community centers around KC to learn all about our school options.

PODCAST



Tune into the Show Me KC Schools Podcast as we chat about the education landscape in Kansas City, learn about navigating all the school options, hear from school leaders, and dive into relevant topics impacting Kansas City students.

CITY SCHOOL FAIR



Learn about school options at the only school fair in KC that features KCPS, public charter and private schools - under one roof.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



Drop by our space at 2201 Lexington Ave. to receive help with your school application, enrollment, or re-enrollment. Use our computer kiosk and free wifi.



Experience

Visiting a school gives you a chance to see the classrooms in action and to experience the school culture firsthand.

You know your child best and a school tour can help you determine whether a particular school will be a good fit. A visit also lets you decide if what you've heard from friends and neighbors holds true.

SCHEDULE AND MAKE VISITS

Three Ways to Arrange a visit to a School:



1. Contact the school directly to either set up a tour or find out when school tours are scheduled.

2. Visit Show Me KC Schools website at www.showmekcschools.org to view both prerecorded video tours and picture collage tours under the schools' profile pages.

3. Visit the events calendar at www.showmekcschools.org to learn about City School Fair, or School Saturday events that allow you to directly connect with school leaders.



A visit is also a great time to ask teachers, principals and other school staff questions. Please see pages 11-13 in this workbook for ideas of what to look for and a list of questions.

Be sure to take notes so that you can remember details that stood out for you. Pay attention to how a school makes you feel and whether you can imagine your child learning and growing in the environment.

Questions to Ask on a School Tour

A school tour is your chance to ask teachers, principals and other school staff questions that still linger for you after your other research.

1. What makes your school unique? How is it different from all the other schools available to me?
2. What is your policy on parents visiting the school?
3. What's the average class size at your school?
4. In what ways can families volunteer or be involved?
5. What type of organized, family engagement activities do you offer?
6. Can you tell me more about your special education and gifted/enrichment programs?
7. Can you talk about the school's performance on student assessment tests for all student populations?
8. How do you handle discipline and student conflicts?
9. What is the principal's background and how long have they been at the school?
10. What percent of your teachers have teaching credentials? What training is offered to those who do not?
11. What does a typical day look like? What outdoor time does my child get? What physical activity is incorporated into the day?
12. What skills and knowledge are parents expected to reinforce at home?

Things to Notice on a School Visit

There's a lot going on at every school. You'll find a list of things to look for in order to help you focus on what you want to learn from your visit below.

PRE-SCHOOL

PRIMARY

How many students and teachers are in the classroom?

Is the space cheerful and appealing?

Are there learning stations or sections of the classroom?

Is there a wide array of toys and learning materials?

What is on the walls? Is student work displayed?

Is the furniture an appropriate size for young learners?

Are books available in the classroom?

Can students reach them?

ELEMENTARY

Do you hear a hum of activity? How are students and teachers interacting with each other?

Is student work displayed on the walls?

How were you greeted? What is the protocol for visitors?

What does the playground look like?

Are there outdoor learning spaces?

Do you see classrooms for art, music, and P.E.?

Are any students receiving specialized instruction?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

SECONDARY

Is the overall atmosphere appealing?

Are there sports fields or a track outside of the building?

Is there a school library? Is it well-stocked and comfortable?

Is the school clean? Is it a place where you would want to spend time?

Are there specific learning spaces? A science lab or band classroom?

What is on the walls? Student work or upcoming event posters?

How do students enter the school?

Are students assigned lockers?

HIGH SCHOOL

How do students enter the building? Is it secure?

Are staff members diverse? Will your students identify with them?

How are teachers and students interacting?

Are students working alone, in pairs, or groups?

What do you see displayed? Student accomplishments, awards, or trophies?

Are there specialized learning spaces?

Is the building clean? What is the condition of the bathrooms?

Are there sports fields, weight rooms, and locker rooms for athletes?

School Visit Notes

Grab a pencil or pen and jot down notes from your school visit.



Apply

Congratulations! You've considered what's important for your family and what's best for your child. You've researched and visited the many wonderful options that Kansas City has to offer.

NARROW YOUR LIST AND BEGIN APPLICATIONS



You're almost ready to apply!

Make sure you know what each school requires and any deadlines that need to be met. (Find a list of schools and their requirements at www.showmekcschools.org/schools)

It is a good idea to apply to several schools. With the exception of your KCPS Neighborhood school, there is no guarantee in a given year that you will get into a particular school so having several back-up plans is always smart.

SCHOOL APP KC



SchoolAppKC is a common application platform where you can apply to multiple schools with one easy application. No uploads required! www.schoolappkc.org



STILL NEED HELP?

Check out the back cover of this workbook to contact a School Navigator for one-on-one support!

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Apply online at www.enrollkc.org
- In-person support is available at the KCPS Admissions office, located at 2901 Troost Ave. Call (816) 418-7505.
- Signature Schools often have specific application requirements. Please see www.enrollkc.org for details.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

- Contact public charter schools not participating in SchoolAppKC directly to pick up an application or to complete an online application. Please visit www.showmekcschools.org/schools for application deadlines.
- Public charter schools that have more applications than seats will have a lottery after the application deadline.

FAITH-BASED & INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Each faith-based and independent private school has its own unique application.
- Please contact each school's admissions coordinator for enrollment questions.
- Please see individual schools' enrollment deadlines at: www.showmekcschools.org/schools

APPLICATION

First, applying to a school lets them know that you are interested in your student attending.

ENROLLMENT

Next, providing key documents to the school regarding your student in order for them to attend. Enrollment takes place after you have applied and are offered a seat.

Looking for ways to get involved or advocate for your student?

Here at Show Me KC Schools we value parent and guardian voices. Here are some ways to be involved in our educational system. Contact any of these organizations for more information.

PARENT POWER LAB

The Parent Power Lab exists to harness the collective power of parents to impact public education systems in transformative ways. We use classic community organizing as the foundation for building parent leadership. By fostering enduring relationships, training, workshops, movement building, advancing transformative school policy, making noise and having fun, we seek to end the systemic silencing of the parent voice in public education.

One or two dedicated parents can certainly make an important impact in the lives of a few children, but a parent movement can transform entire school systems! Don't go alone, join the movement and let's go together. The Parent Power Lab is committed to partnering with schools and school systems to create phenomenal school communities, ones where all children thrive. Please join us.



CONTACT US:
spark@parentpowerlab.com

URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER KC

Our mission:

To enable African Americans and other disadvantaged persons to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.

What we do:

- Ensure that our youth are well-educated and equipped for economic self-reliance.
- Help adults attain economic self-sufficiency through jobs, entrepreneurship, and wealth creation.
- Assist in ensuring access to quality affordable healthcare for all.
- Secure civil rights by removing barriers to equal participation in the economic and social mainstream.
- Advocate and educate on social justice and reform.



CONTACT US:
816.471.0550

REVED

Our mission is to build sustained collective power for the Latinx community. We are committed to the Kansas City of the future; one with Latinx leaders who understand their collective power and use it to better the community for all.



CONTACT US:
(844) 298-3252
info@revedkc.org

MPACT

Missouri Parents Act (MPACT) is a non-profit. We have been Missouri's federally-funded Parent Training and Information Center since 1988. Our mission is simple: To empower families to advocate for themselves so that children with special education needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training, and education.



CONTACT US:
(800) 743-7634
info@missouriparentsact.org

PARENT ORG. WITHIN SCHOOLS

Parent organizations within schools: Ask your school what parent organization groups are available for you to join. These can be a PTA, PTO, booster clubs, District Advisory Councils, or Student Advisory Councils. Each school will have different programs. Contacting your teacher or administration for more info is the best place to start.



PLTI-KC

When parents engage in participatory democracy, child outcomes improve. Parent Leadership Training Institute-Kansas City invests in parents so they are fully equipped to create transformational change in schools, neighborhoods, and public policy.

PLTI-KC is a leadership and civics engagement initiative that trains, supports, and mobilizes parents to be leading advocates for children.



LEARN MORE:
www.pltikc.org



ONE-ON-ONE NAVIGATION

Do you have school search questions? **Get free help!**

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU KNOW YOUR OPTIONS. Show Me KC Schools' School Navigators provide **FREE** one-on-one support to parents and caregivers searching for schools in Kansas City. Our navigators respond to requests for individual school navigation and can support you with an in-person meeting or via the telephone. Let us know how we can help you find the right school fit for your child.

We are here to help you through every step as you find the right choice for your family. Estamos aquí para ayudarlo en todo el proceso a escoger la mejor opción para su familia.

CALL OR TEXT WITH ALL YOUR SEARCH QUESTIONS!

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