

Dear Stakeholders,

In the United States, our focus is on increasing access to opportunities that affect the success of the 80 million children who live in our nation. We help build and strengthen educational and economic institutions so families and children can thrive in stable and nurturing environments. We help communities create the environments that will lead to success, good health, and valuable learning throughout childhood. We want all children to have equal opportunity to reshape tomorrow's society in positive and productive ways.

Therefore, we are most interested in the 20,000 children in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools District 500 without access to the critical resources needed to bring them into the economic and social mainstream. Of special concern are children growing up in "double jeopardy" environments – which means children who are growing up in poor families and poor neighborhoods.

Research has demonstrated that disadvantaged neighborhood environments are associated with detrimental health outcomes, developmental delays, teen parenthood, and academic failure. While not exclusively affecting "children of color," Black, Asian and Latino children are routinely growing up in neighborhood environments much worse, even those with similar levels of family poverty. In fact, 56 percent of children who live in poverty in the U.S. are children of color. This dramatic reality has led the Kansas City Kansas School Foundation For Excellence to commit to working toward the achievement of racial equity as a priority in all of our work.

As we look for ways to keep our district prosperous, we need to make the next generation a significant priority. Even economic experts agree that child development is the foundation for community development – which, in turn, is the foundation for economic development. Capable children become the foundation for a prosperous and sustainable society.

To achieve these goals, we created an organizational Strategic Framework that gives us direction on how we will work to achieve our mission and vision. To implement our work on behalf of our students, we will focus on education, integrate key approaches and emphasize key elements.

For the success of our students we need our communities, stakeholders, and alumni to support The Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools initiatives by giving to the Kansas City Kansas School Foundation For Excellence. We need to assure every student in the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District has the opportunity to further his/her education, to become a successful adult.

Sincerely,

Shelley Coulter  
Executive Director