

Education and Information (2008)

A community's ability to offer quality education and access to information has great impact on the local economy and quality of life. Quality school districts encourage people to reside in the area and often companies choose to locate where there is an educated work force. Nearby facilities of higher education prepare residents for careers and offer training and research for local businesses and industries.

A critical aspect of planning for school facilities involves analyzing past, present, and future enrollment trends. The following factors have a significant impact on enrollment levels within a school district over time:

- the number of children within specific age brackets
- the number of adults within specific age brackets
- birth rates
- new housing construction
- capture rates (the percentage of school age children that attend a district's public school)

In the following section, however, only general population trends are examined for each school district serving Overland Park residents. The other factors require extensive analysis that is usually performed by school district analysts on a continuing basis.

Primary Education

Overland Park is served by four school districts: Shawnee Mission Unified School District No. 512, Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229, Olathe

Unified School District No. 233, and Spring Hill Unified School District No. 230.

Shawnee Mission Unified School District No. 512

Size:

- Second largest school district in Kansas
- Largest of the six Johnson County school districts
- Largest of the four districts serving Overland Park residents
- 72-square miles of which 20.7 square miles are in Overland Park, north of I-435

District Enrollment:

- 2007-2008 school year enrollment - 28,158

Number of Schools:

- 35 elementary schools (grades K-6) in the district, thirteen of which are in Overland Park
- Seven middle schools (grades 7-8) in the district, three of which are in Overland Park
- Five high schools (grades 9-12) in the district, three of which are in Overland Park

Other facilities/programs:

- SMART Start
 - Pre-kindergarten program

- Shawnee Mission eSchool
 - Gives parents wishing to home school their elementary and middle school children an opportunity to access district-approved curriculum on-line. The eSchool is also available to high school students wanting to complete course requirements for graduation through independent study
- Broadmoor Technical Center
 - Offers high school students career and technical training in a variety of fields such as culinary arts, multimedia technology, fashion design, and small engine repair
- Horizons
 - An alternative education grades 7 through 12 school serving the “at-risk” clientele of the district
- Center for International Studies
 - A four-year program of language classes offering students an opportunity to learn Arabic, Russian, Chinese, or Japanese accompanied by international economics and law, and world literature
- International Baccalaureate program
 - An advanced, comprehensive, pre-university curriculum
- Project Lead the Way
 - Allows students interested in engineering careers an opportunity to take advanced coursework in math and science

- Biotechnology Program
 - Prepares students for post-secondary study and a career in a biotechnical field such as pharmacology, agriculture, or bioinformatics
- Biomedical Health Sciences
 - Gives students an opportunity to participate in field experience at health care sites and to earn CPR, CNA, and first aid certification
- Legal Studies – to be introduced in 2008-2009 at Shawnee Mission East High School
 - Provides an introduction to legal concepts and an overview of related careers
- Pre-Medical Health Science – to be introduced in 2008-2009 at Shawnee Mission North High School
 - Offers students a pre-medical curriculum and the opportunity to shadow healthcare professions

Staff:

- Approximately 2,200 certified staff members
 - More than 76% have master's and/or doctoral degrees
 - State Department of Public Instruction certification required

Standardized Tests (2007):

- District Composite score of 23.7 on the American College Test (ACT)

- Total District Composite score of 1,214 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Graduation Rate:

- 2007 – more than 93%

Other Awards:

- 2008 National Merit Scholar Finalists – 34
- 2008 Presidential Scholars Finalists - 11
- Sixteen consecutive gold medal ratings from Expansion Management Magazine
- Eighteen Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Awards from the U.S. Department of Education

Enrollment History:

- Prior to 1986, the district experienced a student population decline, resulting in the closing of 12 schools in the district
- Steady increase in enrollment from 1988 to 1995
- Since 1995, the district has once again, with the exception of the 1997/1998 and 2006/2007 school years, experienced a student population decline though no schools have recently been closed

Table EDU-1
Shawnee Mission School District
Headcount Enrollment History,
1993/1994-2007/2008

School Year	K-12 Enrollment	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase
1993/1994	31,915	n.a.	n.a. %
1994/1995	31,999	+84	0.3%
1995/1996	31,844	-155	-0.5%
1996/1997	31,634	-210	-0.7%
1997/1998	31,795	+161	0.5%
1998/1999	31,562	-233	-0.7%
1999/2000	31,238	-324	-1.0%
2000/2001	30,765	-473	-1.5%
2001/2002	30,381	-384	-1.2%
2002/2003	29,824	-557	-1.8%
2003/2004	29,389	-435	-1.5%
2004/2005	28,958	-431	-1.5%
2005/2006	28,523	-435	-1.5%
2006/2007	28,531	+8	0.0%
2007/2008	28,158	-373	-1.3%

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Unified School District #512 data

Bond Issues:

- In 2004, a \$184 million bond was approved to provide for:
 - 7 elementary schools
 - Renovations at every school in the district
 - Technology upgrades
 - Substantial progress on authorized projects

- Work continues at Shawnee Mission West High School, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, and Shawnee Mission East High School

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

Size:

- 91-square miles in southeastern Johnson County of which 43.91-square miles are in Overland Park
- South of I-435 and sharing common boundary lines with both the Olathe School District and Spring Hill School District

District Enrollment:

- 2007-2008 school year enrollment – 20,718

Number of Schools:

- Nineteen elementary schools (grades K-5) in the district, fourteen of which are in Overland Park
- Eight middle schools (grades 6-8) in the district, six of which are in Overland Park
- Four high schools (grades 9-12) in the district, three of which are in Overland Park

Other facilities/programs:

- The Blue Valley Academy (10th-12th grade program)
 - An educational program designed to offer students an alternative learning experience, offering a more personalized environment based on the needs and abilities of the students

- Three key components:
 - ◆ Development of individualized and personalized learning plans
 - ◆ Thematic project-based learning
 - ◆ Teaching across disciplines
- ACCESS House
 - Adult Cooperative Community Education Services and Support, a program teaching independent living skills to students with moderate to severe disabilities
- Wilderness Science Center
 - Hands-on environmental education in a 30-acre nature preserve
- Broadcast Technology Center (in the Blue Valley Service Center)
 - Creating informational and educational programming to benefit the community
 - Channel 18, a county-wide educational access channel offering programming from three school districts
 - ◆ In cooperation with the Shawnee Mission and Olathe School districts and in partnership with Time Warner and Comcast Cable
- Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS)
 - Gives students the opportunity to experience a profession-based learning environment with specialized instruction and courses

- CAPS implemented in three phases beginning in the 2008-2009 school year
- Four areas of educational interest:
 - ◆ Human Services – including health science, teacher education, and law/public safety
 - ◆ Engineering
 - ◆ Business – including information technology and mass communication/mass media
 - ◆ Bio Science – including animal sciences and bio technology

Staff:

- Approximately 1,700 certified staff and 1,300 classified staff
 - 70% of the teaching staff have a master's degree or higher
 - State Department of Public Instruction certification required

Standardized Tests (2007):

- District Composite score of 24.1 on the American College Test (ACT)
- District Composite score of 1166 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Graduation Rate:

- 2007 - 98%

Other Awards:

- 2008 National Merit Scholarship finalists - 33

- 2007 Gold Medal Award from Expansion Management Magazine for the 12th year in a row
- Fourteen Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Awards from the U.S. Department of Education
- All four high schools named to *Newsweek* magazine's "1,300 Top U.S. Schools" list

Enrollment History:

- Since the district was established in 1965, annual rates of enrollment growth have ranged from a low of 2.1% in 2007/2008 to a high of 20.79% in 1973

Table EDU-2
Blue Valley School District
Headcount Enrollment History
1993/1994-2007/2008

School Year	K-12 Enrollment	Increase/ Decrease	Percent Increase
1993/1994	12,091	1,048	9.5%
1994/1995	12,759	668	5.5%
1995/1996	13,561	802	6.3%
1996/1997	14,403	842	6.2%
1997/1998	15,189	786	5.5%
1998/1999	16,028	839	5.5%
1999/2000	16,632	604	3.8%
2000/2001	17,111	479	2.8%
2001/2002	17,876	765	4.5%
2002/2003	18,489	613	3.4%
2003/2004	18,906	417	2.3%
2004/2005	19,345	439	2.3%
2005/2006	19,860	515	2.7%
2006/2007	20,296	436	2.2%
2007/2008	20,718	422	2.1%

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Unified School District #229 data

Bond Issue:

- In early 2005, voters passed a bond issue totaling \$279.98 million for five new schools, improvements to existing buildings, and to provide new technology (second largest bond issue in Kansas history)
 - 59% for new facilities and sites
 - ◆ One new elementary school has been completed
 - ◆ A second elementary school is scheduled to open in 2009
 - ◆ A new high school is scheduled to open in 2010
 - 24% for reinvestment in existing facilities
 - 17% for technology

Olathe Unified School District No. 233

Size:

- 75-square mile area including the cities of Olathe, Overland Park, Lenexa, and Shawnee
- About 5.9 square miles are in Overland Park, south of I-435 and west of Nieman Road as far south as 139th Street

District Enrollment:

- 2007-2008 school year enrollment – 25,994

Number of Schools:

- Thirty-two elementary schools (grades K-6) in the district, two of which are in Overland Park

- Eight junior high schools (grades 7-9) in the district, one of which is within one mile of the City limits
- Four high schools (grades 10-12) in the district, one of which is within one mile of the City limits

Other Facilities/Programs:

- Heartland and Harmony Early Childhood Centers
 - For pre-school children with special needs
- Prairie Learning Center
 - An alternative learning environment that provides individualized academic programming, using instructional methods that are motivational, intensive, and remedial
 - Designed to facilitate a transition back to the student's home school environment
- Millcreek Center
 - Technical Education
 - ◆ A technical education center offering courses in Auto Collision Technology, Auto Repair Technology, Building Trades, and Welding Technology
 - Project SOAR
 - ◆ Alternative day program designed for students in grades 11 and 12 who are at risk of dropping out
- Project Choices – Department of Corrections

- Alternative program for students from 13 to 17 who are involved with the Johnson County Department of Corrections
- Claire Alternative Learning Center
 - Project HOPE
 - ◆ Alternative program for suspended or expelled students
 - Connections
 - ◆ Alternative program for 8th and 9th grade students having difficulty achieving academic success
 - TLC for Children and Families
 - ◆ Alternative day program for residents of Temporary Lodging for Children providing assessment, special education services and on-site academic programming
- eAcademy
 - eAcademy courses – utilize the Internet to deliver a course, with a remote instructor, to a student after the school day
 - eLearning courses – utilize the Internet to deliver a course, with a remote instructor, to a student during the school day
- 21st Century High School Programs
 - Programs offer team-based, hands-on learning and real-world experiences
 - ◆ Transfer programs offered at selected high schools include Aerospace and Engineering, Biotechnology/Life Sciences, Computer and Software Engineering, Distinguished Scholar, e-Communication, Environmental Design, Geosciences, and Sports Medicine and Athletic Training

- ◆ Enhancement programs, offered at all district high schools, include Business/Entrepreneurship, Fine Arts, and International Studies
- ◆ Career/Technical programs, half-day programs at selected high schools, include cutting-edge training in Computer Systems Networking, Culinary Arts, Health Careers, and Landscape Science
- ◆ Early Childhood Career Opportunities – offers hands-on experience in a preschool lab
- ◆ OlaTHE LEADERShip Studies – a three-year program open only to students in the Olathe East High School attendance area that is designed to strengthen cross-cultural and community awareness through school and community service
- ◆ Professional Careers Academy (PCA) – a three-year program open only to students in the Olathe South High School attendance area that is designed to help students learn to research, evaluate, and communicate effectively while exploring either Science and Engineering, Communication Arts, Legal Services, Social Science, or Business
- Head Start Program
 - For pre-school-age children

Staff:

- Approximately 2,400 certified staff
 - 62% of the teaching staff have master’s degree or higher
 - State Department of Public Instruction certification required

Standardized Tests (2007):

- District Composite score of 23.1 on the American College Test (ACT)
- District Composite score of 1218 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

Graduation Rate:

- 2007 - 96%

Other Awards:

- 2008 National Merit Scholarship finalists - 16
- 2007 Kansas Teacher of the Year award
- 2007 Gold Medal Award from Expansion Management Magazine
- Seventeen Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Awards from the U.S. Department of Education
- Only district in the state to achieve a Level III (highest honor) Kansas Award for Excellence, the state level Malcolm Baldrige program
- RelocateAmerica.com 2007 list of America's Top 25 Places to Live to Go to School, chosen because of specialized programs, unique offerings, and non-traditional curriculum

Enrollment History:

- Since 1993/1994, enrollment has generally increased between two and four percent each year
- The highest increase, 4.2%, was experienced in the 2005-2006 school year

Table EDU-3
Olathe Unified School District
Headcount Enrollment History,
1993/1994-2007/2008

School Year	K-12 Enrollment	Increase/Decrease	Percent of Change
1993/1994	16,536	646	4.1%
1994/1995	17,110	574	3.5%
1995/1996	17,712	602	3.5%
1996/1997	18,385	673	3.8%
1997/1998	18,783	398	2.2%
1998/1999	19,518	735	3.9%
1999/2000	20,233	715	3.7%
2000/2001	20,703	470	2.3%
2001/2002	21,470	767	3.7%
2002/2003	22,023	553	2.6%
2003/2004	22,794	771	3.5%
2004/2005	23,509	715	3.1%
2005/2006	24,499	990	4.2%
2006/2007	25,274	775	3.2%
2007/2008	25,994	720	2.8%

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Unified School District #233 data

Bond Issues:

- In October 2007, voters passed a \$138 million bond issue
 - School sites and construction of new schools
 - Technology for new and existing schools
 - Maintenance and refurbishing of existing schools to provide the same learning environment throughout the district
- Possible bond election in November 2008

- Additions to district's four high schools are needed to accommodate the Board approved reorganization of grade levels

Spring Hill Unified School District No. 230

Size:

- Smallest of the four districts serving Overland Park residents
 - 71-square miles in southern Johnson and northern Miami counties
 - Serves Spring Hill, Olathe, and Overland Park as well as unincorporated portions of both Johnson and Miami counties
 - 2.79 square miles are in Overland Park in the vicinity of 175th Street and Pflumm

District Enrollment:

- 2007-2008 school year enrollment - 1,865

Number of Schools

- Two elementary schools
 - Prairie Creek Elementary School (grades K-5)
 - Spring Hill Elementary School (grades PreK-2)
- One intermediate school (grades 3-5)
- One middle school (grades 6-8)
- One high school (grades 9-12)

Other facilities/programs

- Business Education
 - A work study program preparing student for a career through “on the job” training
 - Courses include Business Law, Business Concepts, Accounting and Computerized Accounting, Work Processing, Desktop Publishing and Office Technology
- College Now/Quick Step
 - Provides opportunities for junior and senior high school students to pursue advanced course work and received both high school and college credit
 - ◆ College Now classes, offered at the student’s high school, always count as dual credit
 - Composition 1
 - Composition 2
 - Calculus 1
 - ◆ Quick Step classes, offered on the Johnson County Community College campus, must be approved by the high school principal for dual credit
 - Any course taken at JCCC or one of their satellite centers
- Insight School of Kansas
 - ◆ Beginning operation in August 2008

- ◆ A Charter school offering high school online, tuition-free, learning leading to a diploma issued by the Spring Hill Unified School District
- ◆ Mentoring, certified instruction, leading edge technology, parental tools, and 24/7 on-demand academic and technical help
- ◆ Highly individualized
- ◆ Multiple academic paths
- ◆ Nationally recognized curriculum
- ◆ Over 120 courses
- Special Services
 - Provides an appropriate educational program for the exceptional child in the least restrictive environment

Staff:

- Approximately 162 certified staff
 - 70% of the teaching staff have master's degree or higher
 - State Department of Public Instruction certification required

Standardized Tests (2007):

- District Composite score of 21.7 on the American College Test (ACT)
- District Composite score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) not available

Graduation Rate

- 2007 - 94.96%

Other Awards

- Rated a “Gold Medal District” by Expansion Management Magazine

Enrollment History

- Of all the districts, the highest percentage increase in enrollment since 1993/1994 for any given year occurred in this district

Table EDU-4
Spring Hill Unified School District
Headcount Enrollment History,
1993/1994-2007/2008

School Year	K-12 Enrollment	Increase/ Decrease	Percent of Change
1993/1994	1,307	13	1.0%
1994/1995	1,327	20	1.5%
1995/1996	1,336	9	0.7%
1996/1997	1,351	15	1.1%
1997/1998	1,359	8	0.6%
1998/1999	1,412	53	3.9%
1999/2000	1,427	15	1.1%
2000/2001	1,488	61	4.3%
2001/2002	1,560	72	4.8%
2002/2003	1,558	-2	-0.1%
2003/2004	1,598	40	2.6%
2004/2005	1,673	75	4.7%
2005/2006	1,713	40	2.4%
2006/2007	1,779	66	3.9%
2007/2008	1,865	86	4.8%

Source: Kansas State Board of Education, Unified School District #230 data

Bond Issue:

- In December 2003, voters passed a \$48.6 million bond issue that provided:
 - New high school
 - New elementary school
 - Technology
 - Renovations to the current middle and elementary school buildings

Private/Parochial Schools

Sixteen private or parochial schools provide primary education services in Overland Park.

- **Accelerated Schools**
 - Offering individual instruction and motivational programs to improve a student's performance in every academic area
- **Ascension Catholic School**
 - Offering kindergarten through 8th grade instruction
- **Bethany Lutheran School**
 - Offering kindergarten through 8th grade instruction
- **Brookridge Day School**
 - Offering part-time preschool (ages 3 and 4), full day kindergarten (age 5) and full-time day school for grades 1 through 3.

- **Canterbury Preparatory School**
 - Preschool through grade school programs using a modified Montessori approach
- **Christ Lutheran School**
 - Offering kindergarten through 8th grade instruction
- **Holy Cross Catholic School**
 - Offering preschool through 8th grade instruction
- **Holy Spirit Catholic School**
 - Offering preschool through 8th grade instruction
- **Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy**
 - Offering kindergarten through 12th grade instruction
- **Kansas City Christian School**
 - Preschool for ages 2.5 and up and a full day kindergarten will be offered for the 2008-2009 school year, with additional grades to be added each year thereafter
- **Mt. Olive Evangelical Lutheran School**
 - Offering preschool through 8th grade instruction
- **Overland Christian Schools**
 - Education for K-3 through K-5, elementary, middle school, and high school students

- **Queen of the Holy Rosary – John Paul II Catholic School**
 - Offering preschool through 8th grade instruction
- **Small Beginnings**
 - A modified Montessori School with programs for children beginning at age 12 months through second grade
- **Valley View Methodist Preschool**
 - Curriculum for 3, 4, or 5 year olds and an extended day program
- **Saint Thomas Aquinas High School**
 - Offering grades 9 through 12 instructions

Higher Education

Six institutions of higher education are within the City's boundaries:

- **Johnson County Community College (JCCC)**
 - Two-year comprehensive community college, the largest in the state
 - Credit and continuing education classes
 - ◆ More than 100 transfer agreement with area college and universities
 - ◆ More than 50 one- and two-year career and certificate programs
 - Center for Business and Technology

- ◆ Programs geared toward individuals and entire organizations, including online courses
- ◆ Training courses toward licensure, re-licensure or certification
 - Banking and Finance
 - Computer Technology
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Human Resources
 - Insurance
 - Mediation/Dispute Resolution
 - Project Management
 - Real Estate
 - Trades
- Cultural Education Center
- **Baker University School of Professional and Graduate Studies**
 - Associate of Arts in Business
 - Bachelor Degrees:
 - ◆ Bachelor of Business Administration
 - ◆ Bachelor of Science in Management

- Masters Degrees:
 - ◆ Master of Business Administration
 - ◆ Master of Science in Management
- New certificate program in Conflict Management Dispute Resolution
- Online MBA
- **Ottawa University**
 - Liberal arts and professional studies for adult learners
 - Bachelor degree programs in more than seven disciplines including
 - ◆ Business
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Human Resources
 - ◆ Psychology
 - Master's degree program in:
 - ◆ Business Administration
 - ◆ Human Resources
 - Teacher Professional Education Program for certificate renewal
 - Online Bachelor of Arts in Management

- **University of Kansas Edwards Campus**
 - Catering to the adult learner, not the full-time student
 - Five undergraduate degree completion programs
 - ◆ Developmental Psychology
 - ◆ Literature, Language and Writing
 - ◆ Molecular Biosciences
 - ◆ Public Administration
 - ◆ Social Work
 - Graduate programs – master’s and doctoral programs in:
 - ◆ Architecture
 - ◆ Business
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Engineering
 - ◆ Journalism
 - ◆ Social Welfare
 - ◆ Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - Online undergraduate certificate program in Systems Analysis and Design

- “Summer at KU in KC” – offering students who are home in the Kansas City area for the summer a way to pick up extra upper-level undergraduate courses
- **National American University**
 - Private institution providing business and career-oriented diploma programs
 - Two graduate degrees through both online and on campus classes
 - ◆ Master of Business Administration
 - ◆ Master of Management
 - Undergraduate Studies
 - ◆ Applied Management
 - ◆ Business Administration
 - ◆ Business Administration with emphasis on Accounting
 - ◆ Business Administration with emphasis on Financial Management
 - ◆ Business Administration with emphasis on Information Systems
 - ◆ Business Administration with emphasis on International Business
 - ◆ Business Administration with emphasis on Management
 - ◆ Health Care Management
 - ◆ Information Technology

- ◆ Medical Assisting
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Paralegal Studies
- ◆ Therapeutic Massage
- **University of Saint Mary Center for Graduate & Continuing Studies**
 - Undergraduate degree completion and graduate programs
 - Master of Business Administration with four areas of concentration
 - ◆ General Management
 - ◆ Human Resources
 - ◆ Finance
 - ◆ Health Care Management
 - Masters in Psychology
 - Masters in Counseling Psychology
 - Master of Arts Education Program
 - Master of Arts Program in Adaptive Special Education
 - Online Programs
 - ◆ Master of Arts in Teaching
 - ◆ Certificate in Health Care Management

- ◆ Nursing Degree Program
- Programs for traditional and non-traditional students with day and evening classes

Summary

For the Spring Hill School District, the immediate challenge is to manage the growth in student population occurring because of unprecedented residential growth without a commensurate growth in revenue producing nonresidential development. In contrast, the Shawnee Mission School District continues to experience no growth or decline in its student population. The City's Vision Metcalf Plan, with its potential for revitalization along the entire Metcalf Corridor, should have positive effects on neighborhoods outside the corridor which could stabilize the district's student population if not reverse the trend toward declining population. Patrons of the Olathe and Blue Valley school districts have been very supportive of growth in their districts through the approval of bond programs that have made it possible to keep up with the sustained growth and need for new facilities.

Quality schools have been and will continue to be a major factor in encouraging people to move to Overland Park. Similarly, a well-educated work force attracts the businesses that have made Overland Park a full-fledged city instead of just a bedroom suburb.