

Inform.



Lawrence Education Achievement Partners

Our Mission

The mission of the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners is to create and foster effective community partnerships that support and enrich student achievement and success in the Lawrence Public Schools.

Our Vision

Through Lawrence Education Achievement Partners, businesses/organizations and schools form mutually-beneficial partnerships that support schools, businesses, and the community.

Our Principles

Participation in LEAP shall be open to any business, service club, school, government agency, neighborhood association, non-profit and faith-based organization, community group, or individual that has a commitment to the mission and purpose of this program. LEAP is founded on the principles of equal opportunity for all children.

Partnerships are collaborative efforts to achieve mutually agreed upon goals and objectives by matching community resources to identified needs of the school or school program and business or organization. In meeting these goals and objectives, school resources are also matched to the identified needs of a particular partner such as a business, university, or community group.

Lawrence Education Achievement Partners Program History

- The Small Business Council began discussing the idea of forming partnerships between businesses and school in 1991. To explore the idea, the council held a number of Education Round Tables at various schools.
- In 1992, Gary Toebben, President of the Chamber of Commerce at the time, set up a committee called the Business/Education Task Force and Ed Meyen from KU and Tom Ferriter from Quaker Oats (now called Del Monte Foods) served as chairs. The task force took the charge to identify a means through which the Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce could cooperatively prepare a well-qualified workforce. To assess the community's vision for this joint venture, the task force surveyed teachers, administrators, businesses, parents, students, elected officials, and other chambers and school districts.
- Based on the survey results, the task force proposed to the Chamber Board and the Board of Education that the Lawrence Public Schools form a partnership with the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce.
- The Chamber and the School District welcomed the idea and formed the Lawrence Business/Education Partnership in 1993 and hired its first Director and formed a Board of Directors.
- Hallmark sponsored the first summer training workshop in 1994 for twelve partners. By the time the program launched in Fall 1994, there were 20 partners.
- By spring of 1998, we had grown to 93.
- In 2003, we changed our name to Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) to recognize the wide range of organizations involved and our commitment to supporting student achievement.
- The 2004-2005 school year concluded with 118 partnerships supporting our schools and contributing \$885,687 in cash donations, in-kind gifts, and volunteer time.
- On January 1, 2007 LEAP and the Lawrence Schools Foundation created an alliance. They will each remain separate organizations, with separate advisory boards and financial records, but will share staff and office space.

**Lawrence Education Achievement Partners
Bylaws
As Amended**

**ARTICLE I
ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. NAME. The name of this unincorporated organization shall be the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP); operated as a collaborative partnership between the Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce (Chamber).

Section 2. OFFICE. The principal office for the transaction of business of LEAP is located at 110 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, Kansas.

Section 3. MEMBERSHIP. Participation in LEAP shall be open to any business, service club, school, government organization, neighborhood association, church, community group, or individual that is committed to the mission and purpose of LEAP. LEAP is founded on the principles of equal opportunity for all children.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

Section 1. MISSION STATEMENT. The mission of LEAP is to create and foster effective community partnerships that support and enrich student achievement and success in the Lawrence Public Schools.

Section 2. VISION STATEMENT. Through LEAP, businesses/organizations and schools form mutually-beneficial partnerships that support schools, businesses, and the community.

Section 3. POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT. In the furtherance of its mission, LEAP will not participate or intervene in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office. Further, LEAP will not lobby or advocate for a particular position on behalf of another individual or organization. LEAP may conduct nonpartisan public education programs about issues that relate to its charitable purpose.

**ARTICLE III
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. ROLE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The LEAP Board of Directors shall have responsibility for policy administration, financial management, long-range planning and evaluation, solicitation of community support and community relations.

Section 2. BOARD MEMBERSHIP.

- A. SIZE. The LEAP Board of Directors shall consist of not less than 20 nor more than 25 volunteer members who are representative of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, the Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence community as a whole.
- B. SELECTION. The LEAP Board of Directors shall elect new members for three-year, overlapping terms prior to May of each year. New terms shall begin in May of each year.

- C. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS. The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce CEO, a member of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, a district administrator as designated by the Superintendent, and the Lawrence Schools Foundation and LEAP Executive Director will serve as non-voting members.
- D. RE-ELECTION. Board members may serve consecutive terms.
- E. VACANCIES. The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies of unexpired terms of members of the Board as soon as is practicable. The Executive Committee shall serve as the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE IV **OFFICERS**

Section 1. ELECTION. The officers, serving one-year terms, shall be selected annually by the Executive Committee and presented for approval to the Board of Directors no later than the May Board meeting.

Section 2. OFFICERS. The officers of LEAP shall be Chair, Past Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Director of LEAP.

- A. CHAIR. The Chair will assume office in May. The Chair will preside over meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and be the principal representative and spokesperson for the organization. Upon completion of his/her term the Chair, without further action by the Board of Directors shall become Past Chair.
- B. PAST CHAIR. The Past Chair serves until the current Chair's term expires. The Past Chair shall perform in an advisory capacity, and other such duties as the Chair may request.
- C. VICE CHAIR. In the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair and any other duties as requested by the Board of Directors.
- D. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep a record of minutes of all meetings, and a list of the membership and the dates and terms to which they have been elected.
- E. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall monitor and review the financial reports provided by the Lawrence Public Schools Director of Finance and the Lawrence Schools Foundation for the management, use and expenditure of funds received by LEAP. A financial report will be provided to the Board on a regular basis.
- F. DIRECTOR. LEAP shall have a salaried Executive Director, selected by the LEAP and Lawrence Schools Foundation Joint Executive Committee. The Joint Executive Committee will define the job description of the Director.

ARTICLE V **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP. Officers of the organization shall constitute the Executive Committee except for the Executive Director who will serve as an ex-officio member. Other ex-officio members include the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce CEO, the Superintendent of Schools, and a District Administrator as designated by the Superintendent.

Section 2. DUTIES.

- A. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the organization between meetings of the Board of Directors or as an ad hoc committee prior to any presentation to the Board of Directors.

- B. When necessary, the Executive Committee can act on behalf of the Board of Directors.
- C. The Executive Committee will appoint the necessary committees to fulfill the strategic plan adopted by the Board of Directors.
- D. The Executive Committee will serve as the nominating body for the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES

The Board will establish annual objectives and action steps and will identify the committees necessary to accomplish said objectives and action steps. These Committees will consist of Board members who will select a Chair and will develop specific responsibilities and goals for the year.

ARTICLE VII BOARD MEETINGS

Section 1. MEETINGS. There shall be no less than four regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors from August through May; but the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, dispense with any such meeting or call a special meeting of the Board.

Section 2. USE OF *Roberts Rules of Order*. The most current revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall be used for the conduct of all meetings.

Section 3. QUORUM. At all meetings, 50% of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Motions of the Board will be passed based on a simple majority of members present.

Section 4. ATTENDANCE. Participation at Board and committee meetings is expected. Excessive absences, e.g. greater than 50%, from such meetings may result in termination of membership.

ARTICLE VIII CONTRACTS

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of LEAP, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind LEAP by a contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose in any amount.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors or at any special meeting called for that purpose, provided that in either instance, notice of the proposed amendments has been given to all members of the Board of Directors at least five days in advance of the meeting. A two-thirds majority is required to approve amendments to the Bylaws.

Lawrence Education Achievement Partners Partner Criteria Policy

The Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (“LEAP”), a USD #497 program, creates and fosters effective community partnerships with businesses and organizations that support and enrich student achievement and success in the Lawrence Public Schools. The following criteria are guidelines to assist the LEAP Board of Directors in determining whether a mutually-beneficial LEAP partnership exists or could be established:

I. School Partners

- A. There is a consistent and sustained relationship between the LEAP partner and one or more of the school(s);
- B. The relationship is mutually beneficial to the satisfaction of both the LEAP partner and the school(s); and
- C. The LEAP partnership links activities to curriculum and assessed needs, and results in measurable outcomes of progress toward stated goals in the school(s).

II. District Wide Support Partner

- A. There is an ongoing relationship between the LEAP partner and the district through general support;
- B. The relationship is mutually beneficial to the satisfaction of both the LEAP partner and the district; and
- C. The LEAP partnership links general support to curriculum and/or assessed needs, and results in measurable outcomes of progress toward stated district wide goals.

If the LEAP Board of Directors determines that a proposed or an existing partnership does not appear to meet the above guidelines, the Board may discuss the mission and purpose of the LEAP program with the prospect/partner in an effort to match community resources with identified needs of the school or district. If the Board determines an effective collaboration cannot be achieved, the Board may decline or dissolve the relevant LEAP partnership.