

Emporia

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Emporia, KS 66801
www.usd253.org

Mary Herbert
Education Center
1700 W 7th Avenue
PO Box 1008
Telephone 620-341-2200
Fax 620-341-2325

Flint Hills Special
Education Cooperative
1700 W 7th Avenue
Telephone 620-341-2325

Emporia High School
3302 W 18th Avenue
Telephone 620-341-2365

Emporia Middle School
2300 Graphic Arts Road
Telephone 620-341-2335

Flint Hills Learning Center
1624 Industrial Road
Telephone 620-341-2251

Jones Early Childhood
Development Center
327 S Walnut Street
Telephone 620-412-8150

Logan Avenue Elementary
521 S East Street
Telephone 620-341-2264

Riverside Elementary
327 S West Street
Telephone 620-341-2276

Timmerman Elementary
2901 Timmerman Drive
Telephone 620-341-2270

Village Elementary
2302 W 15th Avenue
Telephone 620-341-2282

Walnut Elementary
801 Grove Avenue
Telephone 620-341-2288

William Allen White Elementary
902 Exchange Street
Telephone 620-341-2294

January 3, 2024

Madam Chair and Special Education Task Force Members,

My name is Allison Anderson-Harder, Superintendent for Emporia Public Schools, USD #253. Prior to this position I was a school psychologist, early childhood coordinator, principal, and director of special services so I have had experience with special education from a variety of professional perspectives.

Special education has a history of receiving what has been left over from what general education has used, whether those are materials, academic resources, and other items. There were years that we had difficulty finding resources to teach our students in special education because the resources previously used were adopted for instruction for students receiving general education Tier III services. At that time we were fortunate to have highly qualified special education teachers so they had the experience and skill set to use evidence based practices to provide quality instruction. We are currently in a situation where we have long-term subs, teachers who are on waivers, etc., in addition to the need to contract special services for speech language, occupational therapy, and others.

As a district we are proud to share that we improved classrooms for our students with the greatest needs through our bond construction. Every year, however, our special education cooperative member districts advocate to have their assessments lowered because of the amount of money they have to make available in their budgets. As the sponsoring district of the Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative, Emporia picks up additional costs, such as tuition reimbursement for a special education teacher who provides services in another district.

Please demonstrate your value of ALL of our students in the state of Kansas by fully funding special education. Students with special services receive what they need and all students have their needs met because of the increased availability in school district budgets.

Sincerely,



Allison Anderson-Harder, Superintendent