



PRESCHOOL **PLANTS SEEDS** OF SUCCESS

Southwest Early Childhood Center's (SWECC) focus on student readiness, the importance of good character, and developing strong personal connections, continues to pay dividends for the youngsters who attend the program. In the last year, SWECC was named a State School of Character - the first preschool in the nation to receive that designation - and was named one of the top two preschools in the state by the Missouri School Boards' Association.

The preschool instills in students the importance of readiness from the moment they come to the program. Principal Nicole Langston noted, "One of the tools we use in collaboration with our local business partners is called Destination Graduation. Parents, staff members and students sign a contract stating that they will do what it takes to see that the student graduates from high school. Our business partners help us through this process with our families, while also providing each student with a t-shirt with the year of their graduation date."

The combination of positive relationships, high expectations and character development help assure that graduates of SWECC are ready for Kindergarten and beyond.

GREETING AND UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

"Whether it be a preschool student learning his or her ABCs or a high school senior applying complex equations in calculus, our schools are focused on helping each child find success. Over the past year, we have witnessed many stories of student growth; and while we celebrate those, we know that we can never rest – we must continually evolve to make our schools among the best in the state. How do we accomplish this? Through the process of 'continuous improvement.' As school leaders and as teachers in the classroom, we must ask ourselves the hard questions about how best to provide great learning experiences for our students, and we must find the answers to those questions and apply them.

State and federal mandates direct some of what we do, but more importantly is how our teachers find the best means to not only build positive relationships with kids, but to assess their progress and help them build upon everything they do. When we do our jobs well, we know that our young people will be successful."

»» *Dr. Brian Mitchell participates in the JC Champions mentoring program with his mentee Chris*



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ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

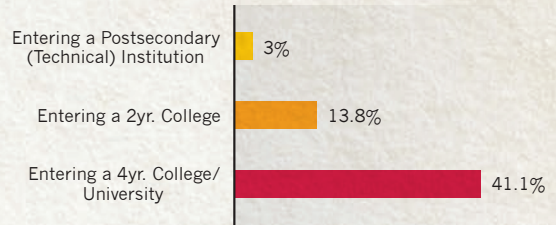
What do Jefferson City High School Seniors Elisabeth Blotevogel, Timothy Ittner, Allison Mollenkamp and Steven Nitz have in common? They are all exceptionally strong academically. In fact, these Jaybirds are four of the 16,000 semifinalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. They were designated



► Pictured: Steven Nitz, Elisabeth Blotevogel, Timothy Ittner and Allison Mollenkamp

from some 1.5 million program entrants in over 22,000 high schools nationwide. Less than 1% of each state's seniors are named to this list, which means they meet the high academic standards in college preparatory course work, SAT scores and are endorsed by their high school principal.

Where JCPS Graduates Went in 2013



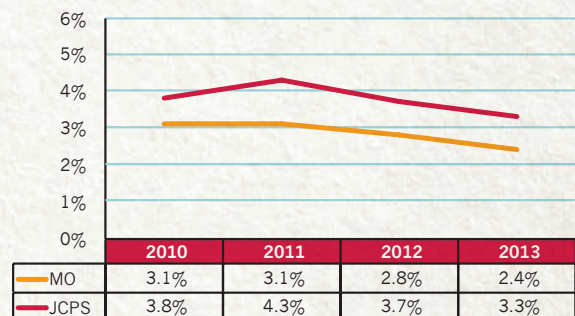
Placement Rates for Career Technical Education Students

	2013
Missouri	58.6%
Jefferson City	70.3%

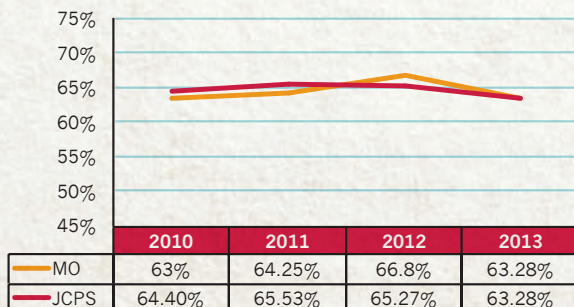
Average Current Expenditures per Average Daily Attendance

	2013
Missouri	\$9,840
Jefferson City	\$8,966

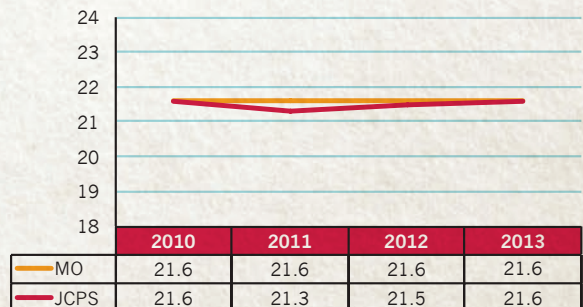
Student Dropout Rate



Graduates Taking the ACT



Composite ACT Score



WOORSSLO **FLIPPED** CLASSROOM

OK, let's get this straight, we'll do the homework in class and have the teacher teach us at home? That's an oversimplification of what several teachers, including JCHS Spanish teacher Shane Williams, are doing. It's called "flipping the classroom," and Mr. Williams says it has been highly effective. "I have an iPad-centered classroom, which allows many new and innovative ways for me to reach my students. I make instructional videos to introduce concepts in my Spanish class for my students to watch at home. Instead of taking valuable class time to introduce concepts and lecture, I have students watch the instructional videos at home and take notes, so that we use class time to interact with the material."

There are a number of advantages to the flipped classroom, including students having the opportunity to watch the videos multiple times to better understand the concepts, and allowing more valuable face-to-face time between student and teacher in class.

Senior Nikolas Hug said, "The flipped class makes sense if students and teachers are trying to find a way to use class time more effectively. I was sick for several days, but I was able to keep up because I could watch the videos and get help from Mr. Williams using Edmodo (an online education communication tool)."

Mr. Williams added, "Using technology does not replace good teaching - it supplements it. It allows students the ability to learn more at their own pace. The flipped process also calls for students to learn good note-taking strategies, as the notes they take are key in class discussion and ongoing assessment."

MIZ-ZOU! OFF TO COLLEGE FOR JCPS 5TH GRADERS

Each Spring, Jefferson City 5th graders take a tour of the University of Missouri campus in



5th graders tour the MU campus <<

Columbia to see what being a college student is all about. After hearing from admissions representatives, the students take a tour, seeing all the perks the campus has to offer.

The day is rounded out with interactive presentations from the agriculture, engineering and education departments, complete with making slime and checking out the hydrogen-powered racecar. While it will be another seven years before these students graduate, university



<< *Shane Williams (right) assists Nikolas Hug with class work*

officials agree it's never too early to get kids excited about their futures.

These visits are about showing students the fun, exciting parts of college, while also exposing them early in life to the educational and career opportunities available after high school. The goal is for our young students to set goals and expectations for themselves now and have the aspiration to continue their education after leaving JCPS.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING REAL WORLD LESSONS

Educators know that all students aren't the same, and some learn in different ways than others. Project-Based Learning, known as PBL, is one of many new learning models and strategies teachers in the Jefferson City Public Schools are utilizing. The main idea behind PBL is the concept of "learning by doing" – the notion that students often retain more knowledge about a concept when they conduct research themselves and become personally vested in a topic.

Kate Leary, 7th grade science teacher at Lewis & Clark Middle School, describes what makes PBL unique for our students:

"Through Project-Based Learning activities, my students get to choose how they want to learn the material, what technology tool they want to

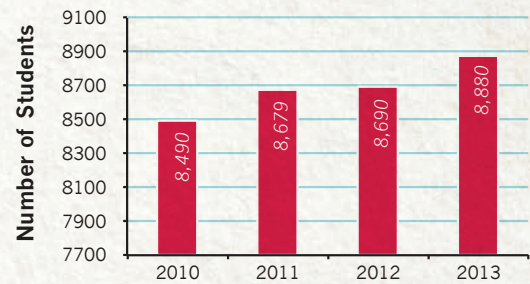
»» *Lewis and Clark Middle School students present their project findings to Board Member, Dr. Dennis Nickelson*



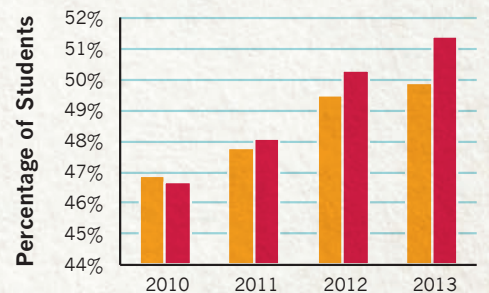
use to share what they have learned, how creative they can be when they create a final product, and how well they can collaborate and share with peers.

One young lady in my class does fairly well in the more traditional activities we sometimes complete. But in a PBL setting, she absolutely thrives. She challenges herself and her partner to practice and master a new presentation tool; she improves her public speaking skills by developing confidence that comes from really understanding the content; she learns from her mistakes in time management and makes better choices the next class period."

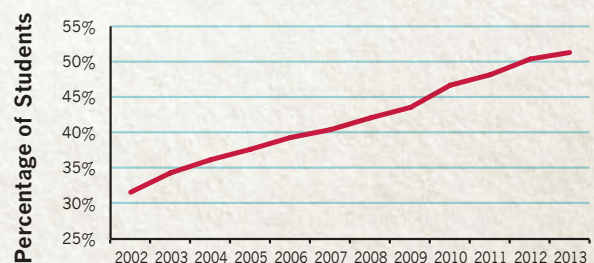
JCPS Student Enrollment



Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch

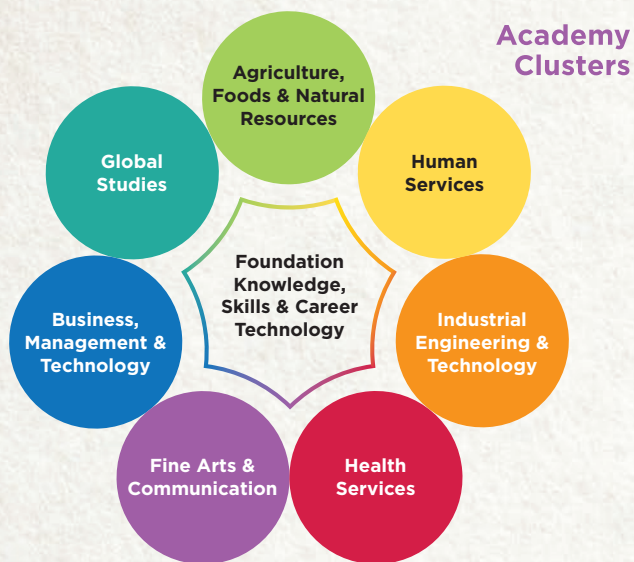


JCPS Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Count



STUDENTS PREPARE FOR ACADEMIES

The Academies @ Jefferson City High School officially kick-off in August, but all 8th grade students in the District, including parochial and private school students, have had an opportunity to select the academies they are interested in attending. In December and January, the high school hosted Academy Jamborees to provide families the chance to meet with teachers, principals and business partners to learn more about what each academy would offer.



For most students, year one in their academy will seem very much like typical classes. The main difference: course work will have a thematic feel to it. So, a student in the Health Services Academy may find that the essay she is writing in English class is geared towards science or health.

One of the most important and exciting components of The Academies @ Jefferson City High School is the business partnerships. Local businesses, both large and small, as well as state government, industry and higher education representatives will be very active in the education of our young people. These business people will bring real world experience



to the classroom and work as mentors for students, as well as panelists in evaluating student work. We encourage local companies and individuals to contact the District to become part of this important educational process.

For the 2014-2015 school year all students were placed in their academy of choice.

GETTING A JUMP ON COLLEGE JCHS OFFERS MANY AP AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Tim Ittner, a senior at JCHS, is on a mission – he is focused on a degree in Anthropology and he is doing everything he can to make that happen. Jefferson City High School offers 14 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students who take these rigorous courses are pushing themselves, knowing that they will enter college ahead of the pack. Tim is currently enrolled in AP Calculus and AP English Literature, and by the time he graduates he will have more than 12 hours of high school Advanced Placement credit. Tim said, “I’m trying to get ahead now so when I get to college I will have more time to take the advanced classes. I think it’s important to expose myself to these courses early on as it will help me in college – I’ll know more what to expect and have the study skills to handle it.”

High school students also may take advantage of the 16 dual enrollment courses available at JCHS. Students who complete the course with a C or better and then pass the college test will receive college credit. Such courses cost a fraction of what students would pay once they hit the university campus. Both AP and dual enrollment courses are a win-win for students and their families: rigorous content that prepares students for college and an opportunity to save money.

◀◀ *Senior Tim Ittner has taken 12 of the 14 AP courses at JCHS*

Dual Enrollment courses offered at JCHS through Lincoln University:

JC Course	Lincoln Course
English 101/102	ENG 101/102
College Algebra	MAT 113
AP Statistics	MAT 117
AP Calc. AB II	MAT 123
AP Calc. BC	MAT 203
College Prep Physics	PHY 101/101L
AP Physics B	PHY 102/102L
AP Biology	BIO 103/103L
AP Gov't & Pol.	PSC 203
AP US History I/II	HIS 205/206
AP Psychology	PSY 101
Business Tech.	BED 208
Honors Pers. Fin.	BAD 250
Computer Apps. II	CS 103

(16 Dual enrollment courses. Most colleges accept these courses for 3.0 college credits each.)

will give me a feel for some opportunities I could have. I like that I can explore these options before I get to college, when I really have to be focused on my degree."

Ellianna, along with more than 600 of her classmates, will continue their education starting as 9th graders in one of seven academies. Regardless of the academy the student joins, they will receive instruction in the core areas of study, but the way they receive their education will be a little different than what their moms and dads experienced. The goal of each academy is to make the learning experience relevant to each student – when students see the real-life applications of their studies, their level of interest soars, and when that happens, students experience higher levels of success.

To learn more, find "Academies" in the Quick Links section of our home page, www.jcschools.us

ACADEMIES: ONE STUDENT'S JOURNEY

Ellianna Horn will be a member of the very first class in the new Academies @ Jefferson City High School. "I signed up for the Human Services Academy. I'm excited about being in classes with lots of other kids who are interested in the same kinds of things," Ellianna said. "I am not sure what career I want to pursue some day, but I think that this academy



» Ellianna Horn and her mother Michelle ask questions and get information from David Wilson at one of the Academy Jamborees.

How much does it cost to educate one Jefferson City student for one year?

\$6,500 for instruction:

- Teachers who provide classroom instruction
- Counselors who monitor academic and social growth
- Librarians who encourage reading and research skills
- Instructional materials, textbooks and library books
- Computer hardware and software
- Supplies for classrooms, fine arts and physical education

\$1,246 for school support:

- Principals and assistant principals who guide the school
- Nurses who help keep students healthy
- School office staff to support daily operations
- Nutritious school meals
- Buses to and from school, field trips and activities
- Workers compensation and life insurance for staff

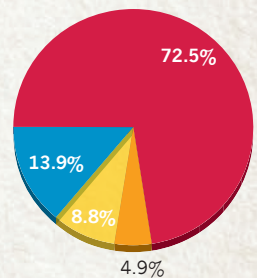
\$789 for building maintenance:

- Keeping the school clean and maintained
- Repairs of electrical, roof, heating and air conditioning
- Lighting, heating and cooling the school

\$439 for administration:

- Administrators who provide teacher recruitment and other human resources
- Professionals in finance, technology and management

Total: \$8,966 per student



- Instruction
- School Support
- Building Maintenance
- District Administration

*These figures represent the district's operating costs per pupil and do not include the following: debt service, bond issues, major building renovations, new building constructions and community education programs. This data is based on 2012-2013 actual numbers. The average cost per student last year was \$8,966.

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY AT SOUTH SCHOOL

On any given “late start” day, which take place once a month across our istrict, you’ll find an interesting, innovative concept taking place at South Elementary.

“FAMILY” groups at South consist of about a dozen students from various grade levels, along with one adult, who gather to build relationships and have fun for a half hour once a month. Staff members are able to choose what they want to cover during their individual FAMILY time – some staff waited to get input from their students, some are sharing their passion for a particular topic or subject and some are working with students to set goals for their futures.

“The best way to judge the effectiveness of this program is to stand in the hallway and watch the kids as they are going back to their regular classroom when FAMILY time is over,” says South Elementary Principal Carey Drehle. “The hallway is a buzz at that time and is filled with giggling, laughter and smiles!”



➤ One South School "FAMILY" works together on a team building activity

With the help of Missouri Valley Big Brothers & Big Sisters, the JC Champions Mentoring Program has over 200 students who are being supported and inspired by mentors each week.

JC CHAMPIONS MENTORING BUILDS CONNECTIONS

Geri Williams and Linda, a 2nd grader at Callaway Hills Elementary, might look like an unlikely pair, but they have become fast friends since Geri was selected to serve as Linda’s mentor last year through the JC Champions Mentoring Program.

The mission of JC Champions is to encourage and support JCPS students through positive one-on-one relationships. Members of the Jefferson City community come into our schools and help students who may benefit from additional adult support in developing the character traits needed to be great students and citizens. The national Character Education Partnership recognized the JC Champions program as a 2013 Promising Practice Award winner last year.

“This experience gives me such a sense of doing something for somebody else and, in turn, encourages Linda to have a positive attitude toward school, herself and others,” says Geri. “I come away from our meetings with a joyful heart. I hope Linda is learning a sense of security and what it means to share yourself with others.”

2nd grader Linda with mentor Geri Williams at a JC Champions event ◀◀



JCAC A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

In 2013, the Jefferson City Academic Center was named a State School of Character, and later a National School of Character by the Character Education Partnership, a national organization that advocates for character education programs within schools. JCAC is the first alternative school in Missouri to receive these honors.



➤ *Alec Wells participates in a class activity at Southwest Early Childhood Center*

character development has had a positive impact on academic achievement, student behavior and school climate.

JCAC Junior Alec Wells is a great personification of those accomplishments. Character education, specifically JCAC’s Service Learning program, has changed Alec’s life and school experience in so many great ways.

“Service learning gives students an opportunity to give back to the community and change their life and the lives of others,” Alec says. He works with students at Southwest Early Childhood Center (SWECC) every week. Once a month, he also serves as a “Lunch Bunch Leader” for SWECC, developing and carrying out a lesson plan for a preschool class all on his own, so the teacher can partake in professional development.

“I really like being with the kids. We’re having fun and playing while also teaching them new things and helping out the teachers – its great for everyone,” says Alec. “It makes me feel good knowing I’m wanted and needed. I’ve also gained a sense of responsibility and improved my people skills. It’s a great program and I think everyone should be a part of it.”

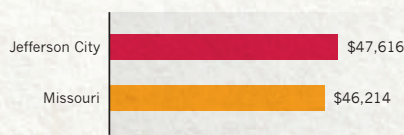
State and National Schools of Character are identified, through a rigorous evaluation process, as schools that demonstrate their focus on

JCPS Staff Statistics

Years of Experience of Professional Staff



Average Teacher Salaries



Ratio of Students to Teachers



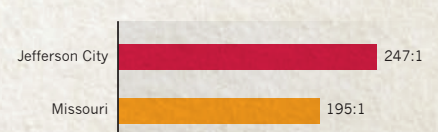
Professional Staff with Advanced Degrees



Average Administrator Salaries



Ratio of Students to Administrators



NURSE FRANK SAVES THE DAY

“Lifesaver” is the word. Last May, Thomas Jefferson Middle School nurse Tracy Frank was at the right place at the right time. A mother driving her elementary-aged daughter to school looked in her rear-view mirror and was terrified at what she saw: her daughter Emily was choking. The mother pulled over in front of TJMS and yelled for help. Immediately key staff were on the scene and Nurse Frank took over. It was a harrowing few minutes, and in the end, Emily was saved.

While this situation was unique, we are proud to have excellent school nurses in all of our buildings. We take the well-being of our students very seriously, and having quality nurses like Tracy Frank helps make our schools safer, healthier places for our young people.



➤➤ Nurse Tracy Frank and Emily

Special Services Include:

- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Special Education
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Reading Recovery and Literacy Coaching
- 504 (Plans for Students with Disabilities)
- Health Services
- Gifted Evaluations
- Summer School

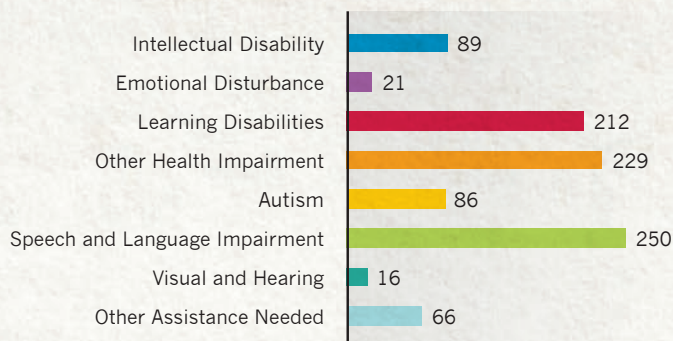
Health Services

- 19 Nurses and aides
- All schools have health services

Gifted Services:

- Elementary (grades 3-5) 82
- Middle School (grades 6-8) 96

Number of Students Served in Specific Areas:



ANNIE KING A SIGN OF DEDICATION

For more than 15 years, Annie King has served as a facilitator and transliterator for the Jefferson City Public Schools. Like many in the special services field, she will move from building to building, from year to year, depending on where she is needed. This year Annie is working with students at South Elementary School, where she spends her day helping children who need extra assistance. Annie also translates for students using sign language. For several years, Annie served students at the high school where she could be found signing in the classroom, the library and even for assemblies in the gym.



Annie King signing at a school assembly <<

Annie shares, "I feel like the luckiest person in the world. I get to do something I love to do, in a place I love to be, with some of the most amazing people I could ever wish to meet – teachers and students."

Principal Carey Drehle says, "Annie is dedicated to helping children reach their full potential. She is always searching for better ways to help students succeed. She's a great addition to our South School team and an asset to the entire district."

LONG RANGE FACILITY PLANNING

Nearly 40 community members are working together with school personnel to develop the District's "20 Year" facilities plan. The group began their work in August with the purpose of studying current facilities and making recommendations regarding capacity, safety and overall "health" of the District's schools. In December, the committee held a town hall to share initial information and seek community input. Additional town halls are planned for the Spring. The committee split into two groups, one to study elementary facilities and one to study 9-12 facilities. The committee hopes to make recommendations to the District by the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.

To learn more, find "Long Range Facilities Planning Committee" in the Quick Links section of our home page, www.jcschools.us

Student Enrollment and Tax Rates

School District	Enrollment	Tax Rate
Hickman Mills	6,917	\$3.66
Jefferson City	8,493	\$3.68
Raytown	9,014	\$3.68
Liberty 53	10,643	\$4.14
Blue Springs	13,436	\$4.31
Independence	14,805	\$4.47
Park Hill	9,876	\$4.50
Ritenour	6,748	\$4.61
Ray-Pec R-I	5,653	\$4.99
Wentzville R-IV	12,028	\$5.04
Troy R-III	5,960	\$5.05
Northwest R-I	6,723	\$5.54
Pattonville R-III	5,517	\$5.67
Nixa R-II	5,524	\$5.70
St. Joseph	12,138	\$6.10
Mehlville R-IX	9,544	\$6.32
Joplin	8,093	\$6.32
State Average		\$4.04

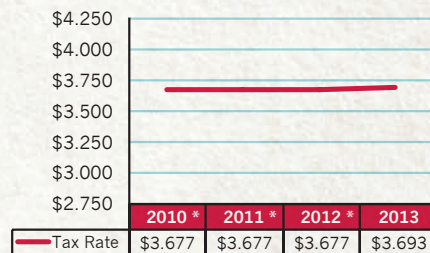
*2012/2013 School Year

Mid-Missouri Tax Rates

School District	Tax Rate
Eugene	\$3.65
Blair Oaks	\$3.66
Jefferson City	\$3.68
State Average	\$4.04
Russellville	\$4.10
Southern Boone	\$4.99
Columbia	\$5.40
Average	\$4.22

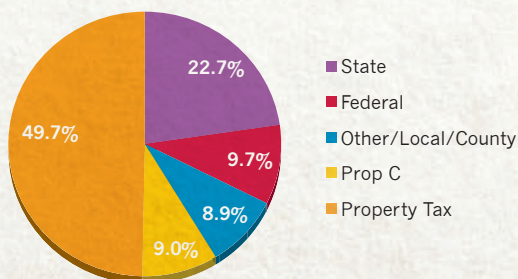
*2012/2013 School Year

JCPS Tax Rate History



*Voluntary Rollback

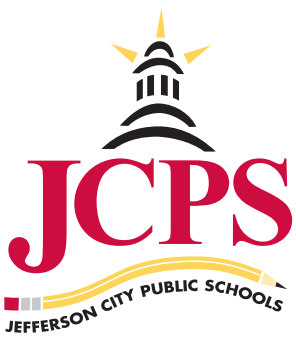
Operating Revenues 2013-14



Sources of District Funding by Percentage

2013 Tax Rate Levy

Voter Approved Operating Ceiling	\$3.7642
Less Prop C Rollback	\$0.2928
Operating Levy	\$3.4714
Allowable Debt Service Rate	\$0.4651
Less Debt Service Voluntary Rollback	\$0.2431
Debt Service Levy	\$0.2220
Total Tax Rate Levy	\$3.6934



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2014 SPRING REPORT What's Inside:

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