



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Wichita State University

Wichita Public Schools

WSU & USD259
BAASE: Better Academics and Social Excellence

Additional information:

WSU & USD 259 BAASE: Better Academics and Social Excellence

IN THIS SECTION ≡



BAASE Learning Lounge

BAASE students will begin remote learning on main campus beginning October 2020.

B Better Academics and Social Excellence
BAASE It's Cool to be Smart

LEARNING LOUNGE

AT WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Needing a place to engage in your remote classes, study and get help with homework?
Wichita State University is offering a safe and productive learning environment where you can engage in your remote classes, interact with your fellow BAASE members, get free academic support and experience a college setting!
Masks and physical distancing are required at all times.

7 A.M.-3 P.M. MONDAYS-THURSDAYS
RHATIGAN STUDENT CENTER
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY (1845 FAIRMOUNT ST. WICHITA, KS 67260)
STARTING MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

GO TO WICHITA.EDU/BAASELEARNING FOR EXACT ROOM LOCATIONS AND SPECIFIC DATES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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What is BAASE

BAASE is an acronym for "The Better Academic and Social Excellence." A USD 259 College and Career Club that is a fraternity of 7th-9th grade boys, which chapters at all of the Wichita middle and high schools, who are striving for academic and social excellence.

Their motto is, *"IT'S COOL TO BE SMART"*

Wichita State's expanded partnership with USD 259 creates new opportunities for young men of color

March 3, 2020

In support of their shared goals, Wichita State University and [Wichita Public Schools](#) (WPS) have expanded a partnership to create a stronger system of support for African American and Hispanic students who want to pursue post-secondary education.

The partnership started in 2018 between Wichita State and the Wichita Public Schools (WPS) program, Better Academics and Social Excellence ([BAASE](#)). BAASE was created by William Polite, executive director of Diversity and Equity for Wichita Public Schools, and kicked off with nearly 500, 7th and 8th grade scholars with a 3.25 GPA or better, no office referrals and strong attendance. The program aims to create a positive peer group of males of color and encourage scholastic achievement.

Now an expansion to that partnership will focus on those BAASE members as they continue into high school.



WPS, WSU partner to bring BAASE program to high schools



The Wichita Public Schools and Wichita State University have partnered to expand the Better Academics and Social Excellence (BAASE) program to students at the district's eight comprehensive high schools, creating a stronger system of support for males of color who want to pursue post-secondary education.

A kick-off event for the program was held at WSU on March 3.

The BAASE program, started in 2018, aims to help close the achievement gap and increase the graduation rate by focusing on seventh and eighth grade male middle school students who have achieved a 3.2 or high GPA, showed social excellence with their behavior and had good school attendance.

The new partnership with WSU will allow students who participated in the program in middle school to continue in the program while in high school.

“Our goal is to bring these students together to create a positive peer group where it’s cool to be smart,” said William Polite, Director of Equity, Diversity and Accountability for Wichita Public Schools. “We want to keep them inspired and motivated and to prepare them for college.”

In addition to regular programming offered by Wichita Public Schools, BAASE participants will become affiliate members of the WSU community.

Each student will receive a membership card that provides access to WSU campus resources and amenities including university libraries, Heskett Center, the Shocker Store and Shocker Sports Grill and Lanes.

Additionally, BAASE members will receive mentorship from college students who are in a similar program for college men at WSU, hosted by WSU’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion. They will also have opportunities to participate in university-sponsored youth camps for free or discounted rates and engage in several academic and career-building experiences.

“Working with the Wichita Public Schools’ BAASE program just makes sense,” says Kaye Monk-Morgan, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs at Wichita State. “As an educational and economic driver for the state of Kansas, we realize that these young men are the backbone of the Kansas economy. We want to support their formal education and ensure that they are college or career-ready, and if they choose to attend Wichita State University or WSU Tech, all the better. We want to double-down on the investment made by parents, our partners in USD 259 and the community to ensure they have paths forward and support for their educational and vocational plans.”



VISION STATEMENT

Through the Office of Equity, Diversity & Accountability the BAASE initiative aims to eliminate some of the current data that suggest that Black a & Hispanic males (and males of poverty in general) hold the highest suspension rates and lowest grade point averages. BAASE hopes to motivate these young men to continue to strengthen their academic identities by enrolling in rigorous college and career readiness courses. Our number one goal is to increase the number of males in WPS who are college and career ready and prepared to compete for academic scholarships!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Wichita Public Schools BAASE Club is to identify males of color who have demonstrated positive academic identities and to engage them in meaningful/culturally relevant activities that will lead to further academic and social success as well as increased participation in AP, Honors and IB programming.

Although the focus of BAASE is males of color, we do not exclude any males who would like to participate.

Our partnership allows us to guide BAASE members towards the next step...This partnership is about extending our support beyond our high schools. It's about preparing our boys for life in a world where they're prepared to achieve their dreams.

*Mr. William Polite, Executive Director of
Diversity and Equity for Wichita Public Schools*

Partnering with Wichita Public Schools allows WSU to exercise their strategic goal to promote holistic student success through a supportive learning environment in which all of our students – past, present and future – continually thrive and grow. Partnering to prepare talented students for careers that support a growing economy just makes sense.

This partnership aims to INCREASE:

- the percentage of students completing dual credit, concurrent credit, industry certification or other college and career readiness opportunities.
- high school graduation rates.
- the number of males of color who receive academic scholarship opportunities.

Measurable Goals and Outcomes:

- Maintain 3.20 grade point average
- Maintain a 95% attendance rate
- 0 out of School Suspensions
- Improve post-secondary enrollment rates

BAASE Partnership Benefits

BAASE participants will become Affiliate members of the Wichita State University community when they receive their membership card (Shocker ID).

Wichita State University Campus Partners

PRE-COLLEGE TRIO PROGRAMS

