KPS
Energy Star Ratings

Overview of Energy Star

Energy Star is an energy efficiency rating program created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Based on a building's utility data and building characteristics, it provides a rating from 1 to 100. The rating reflects how energy efficient a building is compared to similar buildings. Higher scores are better, and a score of 75 or higher makes a K–12 building eligible to apply for a national Energy Star award with the EPA.

Energy Star accounts for variables such as weather, building size, and hours of operation; consequently, it allows KPS to not only compare its buildings, but it also allows for national comparison with other schools and districts.

KPS Energy Star Ratings

Below is a list of Energy Star ratings for KPS schools. The goal is to have a district Energy Star rating of 85 by August 2018, which KPS achieved in May of 2018.

There is no update in Energy Star ratings as of July due to a system update that occurred in early August. Scores will be updated as soon as changes in Energy Star have been finalized. For more information contact gogreen@kearneycats.com.

School Ratings as of June 2019

Building	Energy Star Rating	Change in Score (subtracted) after update
Sunrise Middle	96	12
Glenwood Elementary	93	10
Transportation/SPED Classroom	87	17
Facilities Building	86	32
Kenwood Elementary	85	15
Kearney High	83	19
Emerson Elementary	82	19
Horizon Middle	80	23
Meadowlark Elementary	80	31
Bryant Elementary	79	18
Buffalo Hills Elementary	76	13
Central Elementary	75	21
Northeast Elementary	72	23
Windy Hills Elementary	70	15
District Average	**79.5**	

**Due to the type and function of the buildings, Kearney Education Center do not receive Energy Star ratings.*

Energy Star Rating Update

Portfolio Manager (the organization that calculates Energy Star ratings) finished their review of K-12 school Energy Star rating calculations in mid May of 2019. As a reminder, the they conducted in August of 2018 led to several questions from users due to the lack of clarity on how the new Energy Star ratings were calculated. After a thorough review, they now feel comfortable with the changes in calculations. A summary of the changes in the calculation and effects of these changes on KPS's Energy Star ratings are summarized below.

Changes in Calculations

Two primary variables were altered to change the way Energy Star ratings are now calculated:

1. **Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey Data (CBECS):** Prior to the August 2018 update, Energy Star used reference data from the CBECS from 2003. This means that all national comparison data on building performance was over ten years old. Now, Energy Star uses 2012 CBECS data for calculations. In the nine years between 2012 and 2003, buildings across the United States got more efficient in general. This means that comparisons to national averages have made energy star ratings lower across the board (by 13 points on average for K-12 schools).

2. **Changes to Energy Star variables:** Energy star reexamined the required information for calculating scores and removed some variables, most notably the number of personal computers, and the number of walk-in refrigerators. These were removed because they had little effect on energy usage because these two variables have gotten far more efficient in recent years. In the early 2000s, computers were much larger, whereas now computers are often updated to be smaller.

Effects on Calculation Changes

Across all K-12 schools in the Energy Star rating system, Energy Star ratings decreased by 13 points with this new update. In KPS schools, Energy Star ratings decreased by 19 points. According to EPA staff who developed the changes in formula, removing the number of computers had the largest effect on these changes. As you can see below, this is true with KPS schools as well. Those schools with the highest computer density also had the largest changes in scores.