



## OUR MESSAGE

Kentucky Association  
of School  
Administrators

Kentucky Association  
of School Councils

Kentucky Association  
of School  
Superintendents

Kentucky Parent-  
Teacher Association

Kentucky Education  
Association

Kentucky School  
Boards Association

Prichard Committee  
for Academic  
Excellence

*Kentucky's children deserve the best the Commonwealth can give them. Each child's chance for a good education comes just once. Kentucky's future depends on today's children gaining the skills necessary to create an economy that will sustain us all.*

*The good news for Kentuckians is that our public schools are a great investment. Our students are now scoring at national average in mathematics and above national average in reading and science on the National Assessment of Education Progress. Considering ever increasing students' needs and the reduced investment over the last five years, our public schools do a great job. However, continued improvement will depend on additional state revenues.*

*The members of the Kentucky Education Action Team call on the elected leadership of the Commonwealth to commit additional state revenues for our students. As a beginning, we request that state funding be restored to 2008 school-funding levels. We pledge our assistance in building a groundswell of support among Kentucky citizens to build on that minimal level of funding.*

*The General Assembly took an important step in 2009 when it mandated higher standards for learning, better student testing, and more understandable ways of reporting student progress. The General Assembly – and Kentucky citizens – expect more of our public schools than ever before.*

*At the same time we demand more from our students and schools, students' needs are growing. Increasing numbers of students live in poverty and often need extra support to succeed in school and in life. Over the last five years, the state's financial support for our children has not kept pace with those demands. Funding for schools has not kept up with increased cost of everything from food to energy to personnel. State funding for the Support Educational Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) program, the basic school funding system, has also gone down.*

*Funding for specific programs has been drastically cut. State funding for textbooks and other learning materials has been eliminated. At the time when teachers need the most help to upgrade their skills to meet the increased demands, state funding for their professional development has been reduced by two-thirds.*

*We know now that other sources of revenue for our schools are also declining. Federal funding is already shrinking and expected to shrink even more. Local funding – largely provided by property taxes – is declining as property values continue to fall.*

*The members of the Kentucky Education Action Team look forward to working with members of the General Assembly, the Governor and other supporters of education to assure our children's and our Commonwealth's future. **The needs of our students, public schools and state are urgent. The time to act is now.***

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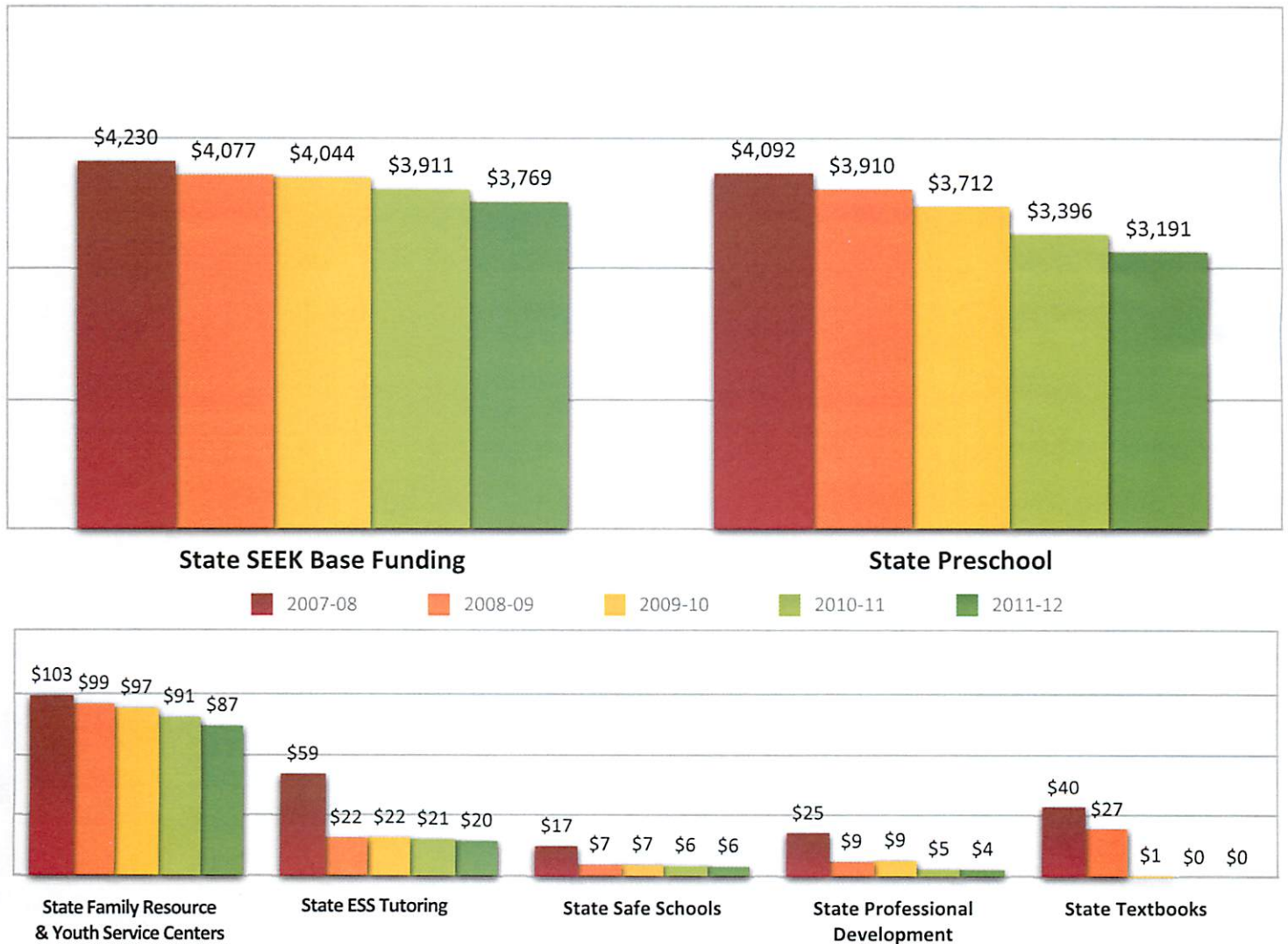
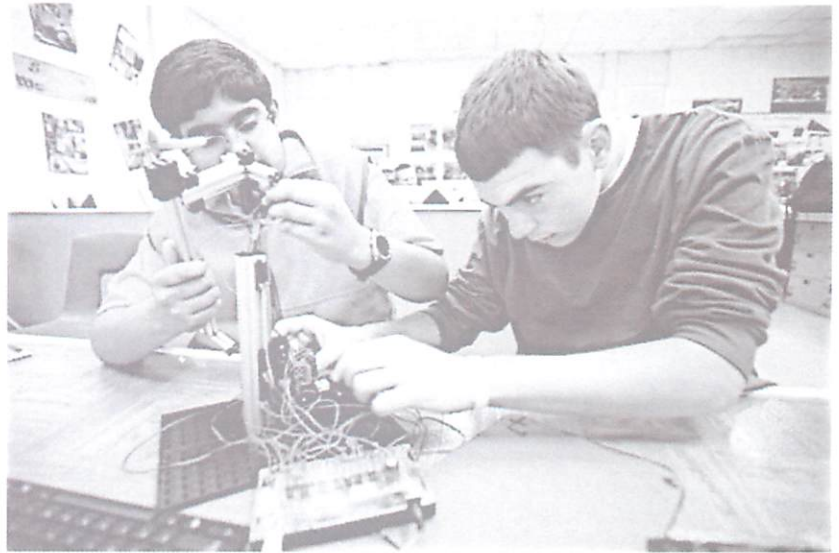
# EXPECTATIONS UP, RESOURCES DOWN

*Kentucky's goal is for all students to graduate from high school and be ready for college and career.*

*As a state, we've committed to much higher expectations, but state funding per student has declined in program after program.*

*It's time to invest in our children, providing the vital financial support required to meet our bold new goals.*

*The graphs below show the key declines in per pupil funding, adjusted for inflation.*







January 10, 2012

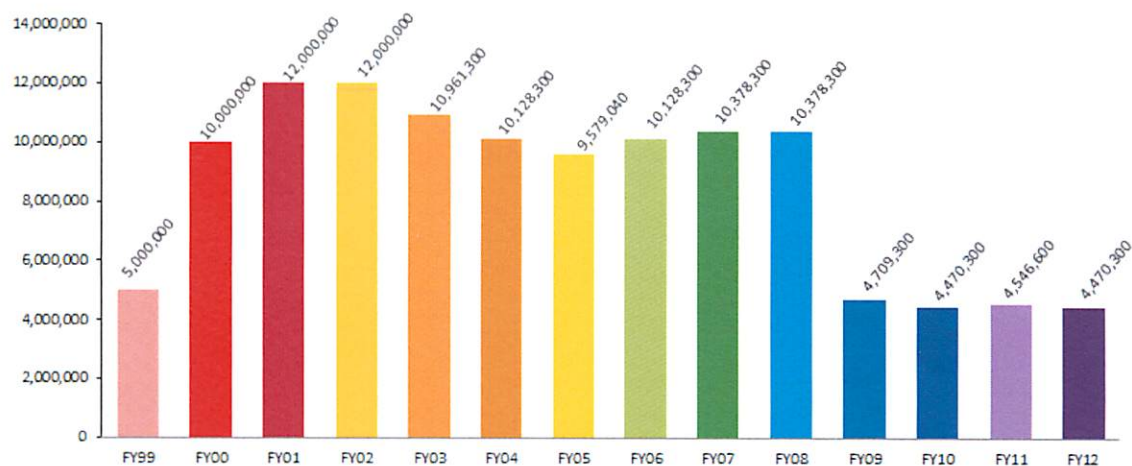
Dear Senator «Senator»:

The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) continues to be most appreciative of the legislative support that has been provided since 1999. As the director, I would like to take a moment of your time to call your attention to (5) important items of information:

1. School safety still challenges school officials throughout the nation on a daily basis. New and different challenges evolve every year.
2. The State Safe Schools Allocation has been subjected to significant budget cuts over the past four years that reflect a 63% reduction when compared to FY02 funding level. (Please see the chart below)

Allocation to School Districts in FY12 \$3,878,370  
KCSS Internal Operating in FY12 - \$830,930

### Safe School Funds Appropriated Since 1999



3. The Center is extremely active in assisting and facilitating schools statewide as they address a wide variety of school safety concerns. To illustrate KCSS's involvement in schools throughout KY, I offer the following examples of some of our activities:
  - Provided technical services and information in 4,056 settings in Kentucky's school districts involving over 229,930 stakeholders
  - Conducted 284 state-wide trainings involving 14,664 participants
  - Conducted safe school assessments in 579 schools in 148 school districts
  - Enhanced the KCSS website, which now receives over 4 million hits per year
  - Published and distributed an in-depth, updated report of demographic data focusing on the disciplinary actions of all students in Kentucky's public schools for (11) consecutive years
4. Included in with this letter is a **partial listing** of KCSS services provided since 2004 for the schools in your legislative district.
5. KCSS respectfully requests that School Safety Funds be exempt from any further budget reductions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Akers, Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety