

# JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *Draft 2014 Legislative Priorities*

### ■ **Provide Adequate Funding Support for P-12 Education**

JCPS supports increasing state funding for public P-12 education to counteract the cuts that have been made over the last several biennia. This includes increasing the SEEK per pupil amount; providing adequate appropriations to support the SEEK per pupil base guarantee; and restoring cuts to grant funding including Flexible Focus Funds (extended school services, professional development, textbooks, safe schools, and preschool), and other district grant programs. JCPS also supports legislation to increase state funding for kindergarten gradually over a number of years from half-day to full-day.

### ■ **Oppose Charter Schools and Oppose Use of Public Funds for Non-Public Schools**

JCPS endorses legislation that enhances and promotes public education, and opposes the use of public dollars to finance public charter schools, or to support programs that fund non-public schools, such as vouchers or tuition tax credits.

### ■ **Retain Local Control Over Student Assignment**

JCPS supports keeping the responsibility for student assignment to schools with local school boards, and strongly opposes legislation that would reduce or eliminate local control of student assignment. If legislation is enacted that requires any local school board to change its current student assignments, the legislation should also provide that the additional expense to the school district will be paid with state General Fund appropriations.

### ■ **Use Districts of Innovation Framework to Develop and Implement Innovative Assessment & Accountability Models in Accordance with Senate Bill 1 Requirements**

JCPS supports legislation, drafted in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky's Districts of Innovation, to permit the development and piloting of innovative alternative assessment and accountability models to implement the requirements and intent of Senate Bill 1 with greater fidelity.

### ■ **Support Full Implementation of Next Generation Science Standards**

JCPS supports full implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards, developed in accordance with Senate Bill 1 requirements to adopt more rigorous standards across core academic subjects aligned with college readiness expectations, and with extensive public and stakeholder input. JCPS opposes any legislative action to delay implementation or modify the standards.

### ■ **Provide Increased Resources to Improve Early Childhood Education in Kentucky**

JCPS supports policy changes and increased funding to improve the quality and availability of early childhood education to ensure that children are academically and socially prepared for kindergarten.