

Report on the 2015 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly



**WORKING TOGETHER WITH LEGISLATIVE
LEADERS TO STRENGTHEN EDUCATION FOR
LOUISVILLE AND THE COMMONWEALTH**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 30, 2015**

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



- **Use Funding Adequacy Study as Basis for Changes to Kentucky's P-12 Funding System**
- **Grant a Superintendent the Authority to Select Principals In Lower-Performing Schools When a Vacancy Occurs**
- **Oppose Charter Schools and Oppose Use of Public Funds for Non-Public Schools**
- **Develop and Implement Sustainable Solution to KTRS & CERS Unfunded Liability**
- **Develop and Implement Innovative Assessment & Accountability Models**
- **Support Use of Common Core State Standards**

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Use Funding Adequacy Study as Basis for Changes to Kentucky's P-12 Funding System

- General Assembly did not address long-term issues related to the P-12 funding system.
- HB 510 passed, provides an additional \$10 million in FY 2014-2015 for SEEK allocations to districts.
 - Restores a mid-year cut to SEEK in current fiscal year.
 - Amount deemed a “necessary government expense,” meaning that it will be paid regardless of whether revenue projections are met.

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Grant a Superintendent the Authority to Select Principals In Lower-Performing Schools When a Vacancy Occurs

- SB 132, sponsored by Senator Dan Seum, passed the Senate, but not the House.
- Provisions of SB 132 attached by Senate to HB 449 (additional intervention option for Priority Schools after 4 years).
- Conference Committee for HB 449 met and could not agree.
- Sponsors and stakeholders (including JCPS) agreed to meet during Interim to determine whether common ground on interventions for low-performing schools can be reached.

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Oppose Charter Schools and Oppose Use of Public Funds for Non-Public Schools

- SB 8, creating a pilot charter schools program in Jefferson and Fayette Counties, passed the Senate, but was not taken up in the House.
- Also introduced, with no action taken:
 - HB 174 – Charter Schools
 - HB 87 – Establish a tax credit program to fund scholarships for at-risk children to attend non-public schools
 - SB 41 – Exclude amounts paid for private K-12 tuition from adjusted gross income
- Louisville Archdiocese planning to work to support legislation in 2016 to establish a business tax credit for donations to support private education and public education.

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Develop and Implement Sustainable Solution to KTRS & CERS Unfunded Liability

- HB 4, authorizing \$3.3 billion in state-backed Bond Funds to support KTRS unfunded liability (\$14 billion), passed the House, but not the Senate.
- Senate Committee Substitute proposed creation of a KTRS Task Force, to submit findings & recommendations for 2016 Session.
- In Conference Committee, the Senate proposed the KTRS Task Force, plus \$50 million infusion of funds.
- No agreement reached.
- Other retirement legislation:
 - HB 47 gives Public Pension Oversight Board oversight responsibility for KTRS.

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Develop and Implement Innovative Assessment & Accountability Models

- HB 34, sponsored by Rep. Larry Clark, permitting a District of Innovation to request a waiver or modification of the statewide assessment system, did not pass.
- A larger state and national-level discussion regarding assessment and accountability systems is expected over the course of the next several years.

JCPS 2015 Legislative Agenda



Support Use of Common Core State Standards

- HB 33, prohibiting KBE and KDE from adopting and implementing Common Core Standards, did not receive a hearing in the House Education Committee.
- This is not currently a high profile issue in Kentucky, but there is a national debate taking place:
 - Several states have withdrawn from Common Core Standards in the past year (Oklahoma, Indiana)
 - Several states are considering withdrawal (Louisiana, Mississippi)
 - Presidential candidates are weighing in.

Other Education Legislation that Passed



- [HB 268](#) - Adds Cambridge Advanced International exams to the high school exams eligible for KEES supplemental awards. Cambridge International courses at Fairdale High School will be treated like AP and IB courses (Sponsored by Rep. Donohue).
- [SB 39](#) - Requires public schools to consult with local and state safety officials and National Weather Service and FEMA guiding principles when identifying severe weather safe zones.
- [SB 119](#) - Requires KDE to develop child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting training for school administrators, certified personnel, and classified personnel; requires local school boards to adopt the developed training (Sponsored by Senator Raque Adams).
- [SB 201](#)- Requires that tuition charged to a student enrolled in a primary school program before meeting the age requirement is the same as tuition charged to a student who meets the age requirement; clarifies that these students shall be included in the school's average daily attendance for purposes of SEEK funding.

Other Education Legislation that Passed



- [HB 163](#) - Provides that local school districts shall not be required to reimburse Kentucky Retirement Systems for retiree health care premiums for reemployed retirees who work less than 80 days a year.
- [HB 380](#) - Prohibits the abuse of a classified school employee when the employee is functioning in his or her capacity as a board of education employee.

Bills of Interest That Did Not Pass

- [HB 306](#) – Included language proposed by Kentucky League of Cities on “Pension Spiking.”
- [HB 236](#) – Would have permitted a high school student enrolled in the district to be appointed to a superintendent screening committee.
 - Provisions of SB 71 were attached to the bill by the Senate, to permit students to voluntarily express religious or political viewpoints at school and in school assignments free from discrimination.
 - Provisions of SB 76 were attached to the bill by the Senate, to require students born male to use only those facilities designated for use by males and students born female to use only those facilities designated to be used by females.
 - House did not concur in the Senate amendments.

Moving Forward



- **Meet with McCarthy Strategic Solutions in April 2015 to develop strategies and establish timeline and action plan to increase effectiveness for 2016 and beyond.**
 - Build/strengthen relationships with “JCPS Champions” community and opinion leaders and key stakeholder groups who can reach out to legislators on education issues.
 - Expand and improve communications with “JCPS Champions.”
 - Improve and systematize communication with Board and JCPS leadership staff on legislative issues.
 - Strengthen relationships with legislative leadership and members of Jefferson County delegation.
 - Bring legislators into JCPS schools, and communicate the good news about our schools, as well as highlighting challenges and needs.
 - Work collaboratively with other districts and stakeholder groups (KSBA, KASS, KASA, JCTA, KEA, KDE) to find solutions to common problems.
 - Conduct policy research and analysis of issues to assist in development of proposed legislation supporting Board approved policy positions. Of particular importance are issues pertaining to education funding for the 2015-2016 Biennium.
 - Develop plan to engage with federal education issues affecting JCPS (e.g. ESEA reauthorization, funding, etc...)
- **Issue RFP in May 2015 for 2015-2016 governmental relations contract.**