

JCPS Legislative Agendas 2011-2015

	2015 Regular Session	2014 Regular Session	2013 Regular Session	2012 Regular Session	2011 Regular Session
STUDENT ASSIGNMENT					
Retain local control over student assignment		No action taken.	SB 216 did not pass.	SB 113 introduced, not acted upon	SB 3 defeated
PRINCIPAL SELECTION					
Grant superintendent authority to select principals.	SB132 passed Senate. Did not pass House.				Senate bill 12 passed, providing Superintendent representative on SBDM council.
CHARTER SCHOOLS					
Oppose charter schools & Oppose public funds for non-public schools	SB 8 passed Senate. Did not receive hearing in House. HB 174 Introduced. No action taken.	SB 211 passed Senate. Did not receive hearing in House. HB 85 Introduced. No action taken.	HB 76 introduced, heard in committee, not acted upon.	HB 77 introduced, not acted upon. SCS to HB 37 defeated.	HB 103 and SB 3, as amended, were defeated.
EDUCATION FUNDING					
Use funding adequacy study as basis for changes to P-12 funding system.	Not acted upon.				
Allocate excess SEEK funds to districts exerting maximum local effort					HB 378 introduced, not acted upon
Revise tax code to ensure sufficient state revenue to adequately fund education.			HB 142 introduced, not acted upon.		
Provide adequate funding for P-12 education		HB 235, the Executive Branch Budget increased per pupil SEEK. Budget did not provide sufficient funds to cover mandatory increases in salary and KTRS contributions.		HB 265, the Executive Branch Budget, continued reductions to state education funding.	
Provide increased resources for Early childhood education		No action taken.	No action taken.	No action taken by General Assembly. Child care subsidies for low-income families cut by Executive Branch during Interim.	
Develop & implement sustainable solution to KTRS & CERS unfunded liability	No action taken.				

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ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY					
Improve Structure used to identify and intervene in Persistently Low-Achieving schools					HB 476 introduced, not acted upon.
Permit local school districts to develop & implement innovative assessment and accountability models	HB 34 passed House. Did not pass Senate.	HB 424 passed House. Did not pass Senate.			
Support full implementation of Next Generation Science Standards.		SB 224 and HB 215 introduced. No action taken.			
Support use of Common Core state standards as basis for improved assessment & accountability system	No action taken.				
DISTRICTS INNOVATION					
Encourage innovation in districts and schools to improve student achievement				HB 37, "Districts of Innovation" legislation, passed	
Provide support and resources for Districts and Schools of Innovation			No action taken.		
OTHER					
Increase mandatory attendance age to 18			SB 97 passed.		
Oppose legislation pertaining to prohibiting services for unauthorized immigrants.					SB 6 defeated.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2015 Legislative Agenda

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

JCPS supports the use of the forthcoming study of the adequacy of Kentucky's school funding system by Picus Odden & Associates as the basis for a comprehensive review of school funding in the Commonwealth by the Kentucky General Assembly. The 25th Anniversary of the Kentucky Education Reform Act is an opportune time to engage in a robust public dialogue about ways to ensure equity and adequacy of Kentucky's public education funding system for the future.

■ **Grant a Superintendent the Authority to Select Principals In Certain Instances**

JCPS supports legislation to give the superintendent of a county school district in a county containing a City of the First Class the authority to select a principal when a vacancy occurs in a school that is in the lowest quartile on statewide assessments, or is otherwise in precipitate decline, or when a school-based decision making council and superintendent agree. The selection would be informed by input received from teachers, parents, staff, and community members regarding selection criteria, and made in consultation with the school-based decision making council.

■ **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.

■ **Develop and Implement Sustainable Solution to KTRS & CERS Unfunded Liability**

JCPS supports legislation to solve the problem of the unfunded liabilities of the retirement systems that serve school district employees, and the development and implementation of a sustainable plan to fund and maintain the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System and the County Employees Retirement System on an actuarially sound basis.

■ **Develop and Implement Innovative Assessment & Accountability Models**

JCPS supports legislation to permit the development and piloting of innovative alternative assessment and accountability models by school districts.

■ **Support Use of Common Core State Standards as Basis for Improved Assessment & Accountability System**

JCPS supports continued use of Kentucky Core Academic Standards to align curriculum and instruction, to establish clear, high expectations for what Kentucky students are expected to be able to know and do, and to serve as a foundation for potential improvements to the statewide assessment and accountability system.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2013 Legislative Priorities

■ **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.

■ **Revise Tax Code to Ensure Sufficient State Revenue to Adequately Fund Education**

JCPS supports revising the statutes governing taxation to better align Kentucky's tax code with the twenty-first century economy, permitting expanded revenue generation as economic activity in the state increases. Funding for education should be given priority when additional state General Fund revenue is captured through tax policy changes. JCPS supports:

- Restoring the SEEK per-pupil amount to 2008 levels, adjusted for inflation.
- Restoring grant funding to 2008 levels, adjusted for inflation, including Flexible Focus Funds (extended school services, professional development, safe schools, and preschool) and other district grant programs.
- Additional funds to support expanded access to high quality early childhood education.

■ **Provide Support and Resources for Schools and Districts of Innovation**

JCPS supports providing districts funding and additional resources to establish and implement school-based reform programs under the provisions of HB 37 (2012), the Districts of Innovation bill. Programs to be supported should be research-based and implemented with fidelity toward driving significant improvement in student academic achievement and college and career readiness.

■ **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.

■ **Oppose Charter Schools**

JCPS endorses legislation that enhances and promotes public education, and opposes the use of public dollars to finance public charter schools..

■ **Increase Mandatory Attendance Age to 18**

JCPS supports increasing the mandatory attendance age to 18 years old or until graduation from high school, if state funds are provided to support the additional cost to school districts.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2012 Legislative Priorities

■ 1. Encourage Innovation in Schools and Districts to Improve Student Achievement

JCPS supports legislation providing additional flexibility to school districts regarding instructional delivery, school organization, and district administration to foster the development and diffusion of innovative practices to improve student learning and academic achievement.

■ 2. 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.

■ 3. Provide Adequate Funding Support for P-12 Education

JCPS supports maintaining or increasing state funding for public P-12 education. This includes maintaining or increasing the SEEK per pupil amount; providing adequate appropriations to support the SEEK per pupil base guarantee; and maintaining current funding for or restoring cuts to grant funding including Flexible Focus Funds (extended school services, professional development, textbooks, safe schools, and preschool), and other district grant programs.

■ 4. 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 non-public school programs such as vouchers, tax credits, or home schooling.

■ 5. 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.

■ 6. Increase Mandatory Attendance Age to 18

JCPS supports increasing the mandatory attendance age to 18 years old or until graduation from high school, if state funds are provided to support the additional cost to school districts.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2011 Legislative Priorities

■ 1. Improve Structure Used to Identify and Intervene in Persistently Low-Achieving Schools

JPCS supports revisions to HB 176 to improve the structure for identifying and intervening in persistently low-achieving schools. Improvements include the use of multiple weighted indicators to identify schools; revisions to the school and district audit process; more flexibility regarding the replacement of a principal and staff under the restaffing option; and providing for a “Comprehensive Turnaround Option” developed by districts and taking into account specific local school and district circumstances, if federal law is changed to permit it.

■ 2. 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 changes to the statutes governing student assignment are changed, JCPS supports legislation to require the additional expense to a school district to comply with the changes be paid with state General Fund appropriations.

■ 3. Oppose Charter Schools

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

■ 4. Grant a District Superintendent the Authority to Select Principals

JCPS supports granting the superintendent of schools the authority to select school leadership positions after consultation with school-based decision making councils.

■ 5. Allocate Excess SEEK Funds to Districts Exerting Maximum Local Effort

JCPS supports legislation to require the allocation of all unexpended SEEK appropriations to districts that levy a tax that generates the maximum allowable amount of revenue not subject to recall.

■ 6. Oppose Senate Bill 6 or Similar Legislation Relating to Unauthorized Aliens

JCPS opposes legislation that would expand the powers of local government law enforcement officials to determine the immigration status of and arrest suspected unauthorized aliens, that further criminalizes the presence of unauthorized aliens in Kentucky, and that criminalizes providing assistance to unauthorized aliens.