

# 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Additional Legislative Issue for Consideration  
2016 Kentucky General Assembly**

**Provide Increased Funding for Elementary & Secondary Education**

JCPS supports increased funding for elementary and secondary education in the 2016-2018 Executive Branch Budget, including:

- An increase in the SEEK per pupil amount with adequate appropriations to pay for the increase;
- Increased funding and resources to support Early Childhood Education;
- An increase in grant funding, including Flexible Focus Funds (extended school services, professional development, textbooks, safe schools, and preschool.
- A statutory change to increase the factors used in determining per pupil SEEK add-ons for students Exceptional Child Education (ECE) and LEP students.

Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for elementary and secondary education should be sufficient to cover the full cost of all programs and district actions mandated by the General Assembly.