

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2016 Legislative Agenda

■ **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 gifted and talented funds, Flexible Focus Funds (extended school services, professional development, textbooks, safe schools, and preschool), and funds to support students with a history of adverse childhood experiences or other barriers to learning;
- A statutory change to increase the factors used in determining per pupil SEEK add-ons for students eligible for free or reduced price lunch, students receiving Exceptional Child Education (ECE) services and students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP); and
- Increased funding for transportation.

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

■ **Provide the JCPS Superintendent Greater Authority to Select Principals**

JCPS supports working in collaboration with legislators and stakeholders to develop and pass legislation to give the superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools greater authority in the selection of a principal when a vacancy occurs, while maintaining a central role for the school-based decision-making council in the decision. The selection would also be informed by input received from teachers, parents, staff, and community members regarding selection criteria.

■ **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. The solution should not rely unduly on pension obligation bonds.

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

JCPS supports legislation to permit the development and piloting of innovative alternative assessment and accountability models to reduce the time devoted to statewide testing, and that measure student content mastery, critical thinking, and the capacities and dispositions necessary for success in life.

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2016 Legislative Policy Positions

■ **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 charter schools or to support programs that fund non-public schools, such as vouchers or tuition tax credits.

■ **Reform CERS State Pension Statutes that Address “Pension Spiking”**

JCPS supports legislation that maintains statutory provisions for the County Employees Retirement System (CERS) to prohibit intentional “pension spiking” and eliminates the penalty paid by districts when a pre-retirement increase in compensation is legitimate, and is not an attempt to inappropriately inflate retirement benefits.

■ **Retain Local Control of the School Calendar**

JCPS supports the position of the Kentucky School Boards Association to support continued local decision making regarding school calendars, and opposes any legislation that would take away community-by-community flexibility on issues of start dates, breaks in the school year, and other issues tied to the academic calendar.

■ **Permit a School District to Receive Daily Tax Receipts (Less Fee) from the Tax Collector**

JCPS supports legislation to amend KRS 160.510 to permit a district board of education, if it chooses, to receive tax receipts (less collection fee) on a daily basis from the tax collector, rather than on a once per month basis.

■ **Permit a Board of Education to Meet in Closed Session to Discuss Terms of a Superintendent’s Contract**

JCPS supports legislation to amend the Open Meetings statutes to permit a local board of education to meet in closed session to discuss the terms of a superintendent’s contract.