

JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Draft 2018 Legislative Agenda

■ **~~Increase Maintain~~ Funding for Elementary & Secondary Education in the Context of State Tax Reform**

JCPS supports comprehensive tax reform that diversifies and stabilizes revenue streams for the Commonwealth, that encourages robust economic growth, and that is fair and equitable, including for poor and working families. As changes to the tax structure are being contemplated, the General Assembly should ensure that the revenue generated is sufficient for elementary and secondary education funding to be ~~increased maintained~~ particularly in light of rising costs, unfunded pension liabilities, and relatively flat funding for education.

■ **Essential Skills Legislation**

JCPS strongly supports Essential Skills legislation that directs the development and implementation of authentic and performance-based standards, assessments, and curricula of deeper learning designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate essential life and workforce skills such as adaptability, diligence, initiative, reliability, and collaboration. These topics should be viewed broadly as life preparation and should not be new graduation requirements. The legislation should:

- ~~R~~require KDE to establish state standards and criteria for attainment of essential skills, and develop instructional and curricular resources to support local districts; ~~while permitting flexibility at the school and district level regarding implementation.~~
- Permit school districts significant flexibility in the development and implementation of strategies and programs that meet or exceed the state standards and criteria; and
- Be used to as means to improve student engagement, learning, and preparedness, rather than to rank schools based on Essential Skills Criteria.

■ **Continue Efforts to address KTRS & CERS Unfunded Liability and to Increase Pension System Transparency**

JCPS recognizes the need to and supports recent efforts of the General Assembly and the Governor to increase transparency and address the problem of the unfunded liabilities of the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS), the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), and other parts of the state pension system. JCPS supports a continuation of that work, and implementation of a sustainable plan to fund and maintain the KTRS and the CERS on an actuarially sound basis. The solution should:

- Honor all commitments made to current employees and retirees;
- Focus ~~Be focused~~ on reducing the unfunded liability over a 30 year time horizon; and
- Take into account the consequences of policy decisions on the retirement rates of current teachers and administrators, and the recruitment and retention of future teachers and administrators.

■ **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.

Text in Red = Recommended changes from initial draft based on Board & Acting Supt. input.

Yellow highlight = Recommended changes based on Board input since posting.

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

■ **Ensure that a Superintendent Screening Committee Reflects Racial and Ethnic Diversity of the Students Served and Includes Student Representation**

JCPS supports legislation to ensure that the membership of a district's Superintendent Screening Committee generally reflects the racial and ethnic composition of the student population the district serves, and includes at least one student representative on the committee.

■ **Improve the Tribunal Process**

Support efforts of KSBA, KASA, and KASS to alter the tribunal process for certified employees to achieve more consistent results and promote effective teaching, while protecting due process rights of JCPS certified staff.