



Legislative Priorities

Kentucky General Assembly 2021

FUNDING

- Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) supports legislation to adequately fund the public education system as required by *Rose v. Council for Better Education* (1989).
 - Hold all education funding harmless in the 2021 budget.
 - Provide additional stimulus support for districts due to COVID-19 to alleviate local losses in occupational and property tax revenue and federal reimbursements in 2020.
 - Acknowledging that the impact of COVID-19 on funding and student achievement will be felt for many years to come, establish long-term funding for focused intervention for students.
 - Establish in statute a consistent rate increase for Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) over time to allow districts to better plan for capital costs, teacher salary increases, staffing patterns, and program investment.
 - Provide increased flexibility for local districts to generate revenue, including the addition of a single non-recallable nickel.
- JCPS opposes scholarship tax credits, tax credits for corporations, and individuals donating money to pay for private school scholarships. JCPS also opposes funding for charter schools, including funding that would divert SEEK Average Daily Attendance dollars or local levied taxes from local school districts to charter schools. JCPS supports programs and funding to promote recruitment and retention of highly effective public school teachers, including minority teachers. This includes, but is not limited to, reinstatement of the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP), Professional Development Program, Teacher Recruitment and Retention Program, Leadership and Mentor Fund, Teacher Academies Program, and Teacher Scholarship Program.

PENSIONS

- JCPS supports full funding of actuarially required contributions (ARC, ADEC, ADC) for Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Kentucky and County Employees Retirement System (CERS) participants as well as full funding for retiree health insurance. In recognition that local entities have paid their contributions consistently over time, enact rate ceilings for employee and employer pension and health contributions determined by the TRS Kentucky and Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS) boards.

EQUITY

- 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.
- JCPS supports legislation that would work toward increasing a culturally relevant curriculum in schools, with emphasis on expanding curricula beyond Eurocentric perspectives. JCPS also supports legislation that would provide for quality implicit bias training for staff.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- JCPS urges the legislature to call upon the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to submit a waiver to the U.S. Department of Education that allows FY21 accountability test results to be used for progress and intervention measures but not for high-stakes decision making.
- JCPS urges the legislature to increase the N-value of 10 to 30 in the accountability system to maintain full transparency while providing a more robust sample size when making high-stakes decisions that impact school cultures and communities.

REDUCING BOARD MEMBER BURDEN

- JCPS supports legislation to amend KRS 161.765 to allow appeals for demotions to be heard by the superintendent or his/her designee instead of the board of education to align with KRS 160.370 and 160.380 giving express powers for all matters of personnel to the superintendent.
- JCPS supports legislation that would allow the superintendent or his/her designee to hear appeals for students regarding placement in alternative school settings. This would alleviate administrative burden on board of education members.

HEALTH

- JCPS supports legislation that would discourage students from using tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products.
- JCPS supports legislation that would increase access to mental-health supports for students, including additional set-aside funds for licensed mental-health service providers for schools, which allows districts to take advantage of Federal Medicaid dollars through the Free Care waiver.

