



# DRAFT Legislative Priorities

Kentucky General Assembly 2022

## COVID-19 RELIEF AND MITIGATION

JCPS supports legislation extending the following provisions of SB1 from the 2021 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature (extension through at least **June 30, 2022**):

- Allow districts to use their attendance data from FY18, FY19, or FY20 for the purposes of calculating the upcoming year's SEEK calculation
- Allow teachers who retired on or before August 1, 2021, to return to employment in a full- or part-time teaching or substitute teaching position with one month of separation and without salary penalty by increasing the critical shortage position allowance from 1% to 10%
- Allow classified staff to perform classroom instructional activities without direct supervision by certified staff, including instruction for Home Hospital Instruction
- Allow districts to use ARPA funds to pay for retired teachers to be reemployed
- Allow districts to adjust school calendars and schedules as long as they provide 1,062 hours of instruction for the FY22 school year
- Allow districts 20 days of remote instruction in addition to the 10 NTI days allowed statutorily

### JCPS supports legislation that would:

- Allow districts to use 20 remote instruction days per school—or hybrid instruction, if necessary—for COVID-19 mitigation
- Allow districts an additional 10 NTI days for COVID-19 reasons only
- Allow districts to choose to have staff report for duty from their home office

JCPS opposes legislation that would take away or overturn local school board decision-making related to COVID-19 mitigation and public health efforts.

## FUNDING

JCPS supports legislation to adequately fund the public education system as required by the Kentucky Constitution and as further explained in *Rose v. Council for Better Education* (1989):

- Establish in statute a consistent rate increase for SEEK over time to allow districts to better plan for capital costs, teacher salary increases, staffing patterns, and program investment
- Fully fund SEEK Transportation
- Continue to fully fund all-day kindergarten and invest in universal pre-kindergarten
- Fully fund the actuarially required contributions (ARC, ADEC, ADC) for KTRS and CERS participants as well as retiree health insurance
- Fully fund Learning and Results Services programs, especially textbooks and professional development

- Fully fund the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program, Teacher Academies, Teacher Recruitment and Retention program, Leadership and Mentor Fund, and Teacher’s Professional Growth program
- Provide adequate funding for state agency schools
- Increase funding for National Board Certified Teacher stipend, AP and IB exam fees for free- and reduced-price meal students, and Gifted and Talented
- Provide increased flexibility for local districts to generate revenue, including the addition of a single non-recallable nickel

## SCHOOL PRIVATIZATION

JCPS opposes any use of state tax revenue or exclusion of anticipated revenue that would divert funding away from traditional public schools, including schemes like vouchers, tuition credits, tax credits, and funding for charter schools.

## EQUITY

- JCPS opposes legislation that would ban or limit the teaching of historically accurate facts and infringe on student’s First Amendment rights.
- JCPS supports legislation to ensure the membership of a district’s Superintendent Screening Committee generally reflects the racial and ethnic composition of the student population that the district serves and includes at least one student representative on the committee.
- JCPS supports legislation that would work toward increasing culturally relevant curriculum in schools, with emphasis on expanding curricula beyond Euro-centric 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 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.

## REDUCING BOARD MEMBER BURDEN

- JCPS supports legislation to amend KRS 161.765 to allow appeals for demotions to be heard by the superintendent or their 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 their designee to hear appeals for students regarding placement in alternative school settings. This would alleviate administrative burden on board of education members.

## STUDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL 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 funds set aside for licensed mental health service providers for schools that allows districts to take advantage of Federal Medicaid dollars through the Free Care waiver.

