



# Kentucky Board of Education

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The KBE is committed to the pursuit of educational equity which is defined as the promotion of access, opportunity and advancement of all individuals, especially those in historically underserved communities, in order to identify and eliminate conditions that prevent the ability of all students to reach their full potential. We pledge to develop authentic partnerships with other Kentucky agencies and education stakeholders in order to strengthen our efforts and maximize impact.

### KBE GOAL

Champion the Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education's efforts to reimagine learning in Kentucky as we co-create a vision with communities, foster local innovation, and advance policy recommendations aligned with this work.



*Investing in Kentucky's Future, One Student at a Time*

Students across Kentucky are growing up in a globally interconnected world, and one that is accelerating in competitiveness and opportunity. For our students to thrive in the world they are inheriting, it is up to us to create learning experiences that prepare them for this future. While every student has the potential for success in this new world, we know that learning opportunities and outcomes have been uneven. Kentucky's public schools will only fully realize their potential if we can ensure a quality and equitable learning experience for all students.

As educators, students, families, businesses and community members, we must come together around a new, student-centered education system that works for everyone. To meet this exciting future, we need a bold and forward-thinking direction to give our students the learning experiences they need and deserve.

### FUNDING EQUITY AND ADEQUACY



#### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- A comprehensive review of the current school funding formula to ensure that the weights in the SEEK formula consider the additional cost of educating students in add-on groups, and that all cohorts of students that require additional costs for an adequate education are included.
- Increased funding for 2019 Senate Bill 1, including funding for an adequate number of mental health professionals in every school, as well as high-quality professional development for all teachers. Student success relies on having outstanding adults in their lives to serve as guides and role models.
- Legislatively connecting future increases in funding for the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf to increases in the JCPS salary schedule, which statutorily determines teaching salaries in those state schools and which KBE has no control over or voice in.

**The KBE opposes any efforts to divert tax revenues for the purpose of privatizing education. These funds are better spent improving public education and better serving all students rather than a self-selected subset of students.**



## DISTRICT FLEXIBILITY



### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- Legislation to continue the flexibility that local school districts need as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, including:
  - Calendar flexibility to address the increased student and staff absences caused by COVID-19;
  - Hiring flexibility to provide a stable teaching and support staff corps; and
  - Continued ability for local boards of education and district administrators to make decisions regarding masking and other virus mitigation efforts.
- Legislation to streamline the facilities construction process for local school districts, in order to reduce unnecessary and burdensome regulations and more quickly construct adequate facilities for all Kentucky students.

## KBE GOAL

Amplify our voice in support of minority students, their families, and minority educators by not only listening to their concerns and aspirations, but also pledging to leverage those concerns and aspirations to guide our actions. Continue to support and promote the Kentucky Department of Education's efforts to foster a culture of anti-racism and further equity within our public schools.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- Ensuring that all students have access to a wide range of political, social, and cultural perspectives in order to develop the critical thinking skills, interpersonal competencies and problem solving capabilities required for success in the workforce and in life.

**The KBE opposes efforts to limit students' exposure to a diverse array of cultures and perspectives. Such policy would be a disservice to our students by compromising their understanding of the world around them.**

## KBE GOAL

In cooperation with the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), advance policies and regulation reviews that strengthen the future teacher pipeline and increase the qualities and competencies of Kentucky's educator workforce emphasizing the critical need for increased representation of teachers of color.

## DISTRICT FLEXIBILITY



### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- The recruitment and retention of an educator workforce that includes individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds who are more representative of the student population. Studies show all students benefit when they have access to teachers of color. This is especially true for students of color, who report better academic performance, improved graduation rates, and an increased likelihood of college attendance when taught by teachers of color. We support programs such as the Kentucky Academy for Equity in Teaching that seek to diversify the educator workforce in the Commonwealth.
- The strengthening of the educator pipeline through improved induction for all new teachers, and funding for professional learning for practicing educators to support the development of leadership skills and content expertise.



## KBE GOAL

Galvanize support of strong, developmentally appropriate early childhood education as a path to equity by taking steps toward fully funded full-day kindergarten and universal public preschool.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD



#### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- Significantly increased funding for primary and secondary education. Such increases include permanent funding for full-day kindergarten programs, universal full-day preschool, fully funding the SEEK transportation formula, and equitably funding school facilities and career and technical education programs.
- The implementation of statewide evidence-based initiatives shown to improve literacy and numeracy skills in elementary school students. These skills are foundational and crucial to future student success.

## KBE GOAL

Promote the creation and implementation of a statewide profile of a learner/graduate, identifying the knowledge, skills and dispositions all Kentucky learners need to become successful citizens. Utilize and strengthen key partnerships, including those with the Commonwealth Education Continuum and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, to inform this work.

### PROFILE OF A GRADUATE



#### The Kentucky Board of Education supports:

- The creation of a statewide program to strengthen postsecondary transition advising practices as recommended by the Commonwealth Education Continuum.
- Increased funding for Area Technology Centers to support the development of opportunities for students for pre-apprenticeships, internships and work-based learning which will lead to the development of skills required by business and industry.

# Kentucky Board of Education

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