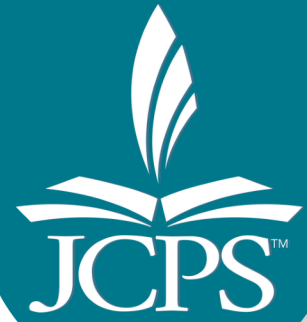


Legislative Priorities

Kentucky General Assembly 2023



FUNDING

The Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) District 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
- Fully fund the School Safety and Resiliency Act, including both school security and mental health resources.
- Permanently codify full-day kindergarten funding
- Invest in universal pre-kindergarten
- Provide increased flexibility for local districts to generate revenue
- Transition to an Average Daily Membership (ADM) model that is more reflective of district costs than the current Average Daily Attendance (ADA) model.
- Reconsider the weights for SEEK add-ons, including at-risk students, exceptional children, and limited English proficiency, in light of cost changes since those weights were first enacted.

JCPS opposes legislation that would create any unfunded mandate for local school districts.

TREATMENT OF LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

JCPS opposes legislation that imposes obligations or restrictions on a certain school district or districts based on district size or other immaterial criteria that are not imposed on all Kentucky school districts.

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

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.

ACCOUNTABILITY

JCPS supports legislation to review the state's accountability metrics and create a system that authentically values career readiness, properly weights important factors that are valid and reliable predictors of success, and does not unfairly punish schools with high populations of students experiencing poverty, English language learners, and minorities.



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 that the district serves and includes at least one student representative on the committee.

JCPS supports legislation that would work toward expanding curricula and instructional materials in order to increase relevance to all students, with an emphasis on expanding beyond traditional Eurocentric perspectives. JCPS also supports legislation that would provide for quality implicit bias training for staff.

JCPS opposes any efforts to discriminate against LGBTQ students, including efforts to prevent equitable access to necessary supports and resources or remove protections for their mental health and safety.

REDUCING BOARD MEMBER BURDEN

JCPS supports legislation to amend KRS 161.765 to allow appeals for demotions to be heard by a committee appointed by the superintendent instead of the board of education to align with KRS 160.370 and 160.380, giving the superintendent oversight and management authority for all matters relating to personnel.

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 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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 allow districts to take advantage of Federal Medicaid dollars through the Free Care waiver.

JCPS supports efforts to encourage secure storage of firearms and ammunition in order to limit irresponsible access by minors and reduce the presence of weapons on school campuses.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

JCPS supports permanently codifying the streamlined facilities process in House Bill 678 (2022) and reducing the administrative burdens on local districts in the construction process.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

JCPS supports permanent codification of temporary COVID-19 legislation that allows teachers who retire 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%.

JCPS supports restoration of prior language allowing authorized classified staff to provide classroom instruction without direct supervision.

JCPS supports an annual state-mandated and state-funded pay raise for teachers to cover cost-of-living increases.

