



2023

Legislative Priorities



Kentucky Priorities

Funding

Note: The Fayette County Board of Education understands and appreciates that lawmakers have increased public education in the 2022-2024 budget. We also recognize that 2023 is not a budget year. Therefore, this legislative agenda does not include specific funding requests. Any priorities that would be tied to funding requests are intended to be part of a conversation for the 2024 budget cycle.

- FCPS opposes efforts that make it more difficult for local districts to respond to local needs through the collection of local revenue. As local governments are forced to respond to rising inflation, school taxing authority must be nimble and able to be governed at the local level.
- FCPS also supports efforts to make Kentucky's revenue streams more efficient and to seek additional sources of revenue to support public education.

Student Performance and School Accountability

- FCPS supports amendments to the accountability system to focus more on real-time testing that can be used for timely interventions. FCPS would support a task force to study appropriate performance-based assessments that would be better measures of student performance.
- FCPS also supports transition to an accountability model that places greater emphasis on growth and postsecondary readiness and factors and data points that cannot be measured through a written test such as school safety, social-emotional learning, family engagement, financial stewardship, etc..
- FCPS supports legislation that would create more focus on evaluating language awareness, so that results can better target the needs of students speaking English as a second language.
- FCPS supports expanded opportunities for Registered Apprenticeships and expansion of career pathways for students to pursue, along with marketing efforts to help parents and students understand the value and benefit of apprenticeships.
- FCPS supports statewide initiatives to promote and support meaningful conversations and actions in public schools around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Any mandated programming for districts needs adequate funding, support, and staffing to target and reduce opportunity gaps impacting children and families.

School Safety

- FCPS applauds the work of the legislature in passing the School Safety and Resiliency Act in 2019. Therefore, FCPS supports continued and augmented funding to ensure full implementation of that critical act. This could include a modest state match for districts and communities that have passed local nickels to fund school safety.
- FCPS supports legislation that would assist in greater access for mental health service providers for students and staff.

Kentucky Priorities ctd.

- FCPS supports legislation that would relieve pressure from critical workforce shortages for certified and classified staff, including SROs, to ensure appropriate and safe student/staff ratios. For teachers, this could include tuition assistance, funding for grow-your-own programming, sabbaticals, and funding for support for new teachers. Mechanisms for creating additional days for new teachers in their first five years to help provide more training would be helpful.

School Facilities

- FCPS thanks Kentucky lawmakers for the critical waivers provided by HB678 in the 2022 legislative session.
- FCPS supports any efforts to provide inflation relief for school construction funds. Bonding capacity is limited, and inflation has caused significant strain on districts from border to border.
- FCPS also supports flexibilities on infrastructure to expand early childhood opportunities, including preschool.
- FCPS supports an extension or permanent discontinuation of KDE's oversight in school facility planning.

Public Schools for Public Taxpayers

- FCPS opposes state support and/or funding for private school tuition, including vouchers, scholarship tax credits, or any variation thereof.
- In recognition that public schools serve the Commonwealth's most challenging students, FCPS supports increases to SEEK add-on funds during the 2024 session.
- FCPS opposes funding for charter schools, especially while public schools remain underfunded.
- FCPS has always welcomed and supported parental involvement in public schools! We continue to advocate for greater parental involvement. However, FCPS opposes measures that would add administrative burden and increase district costs through so-called "parental rights" bills aimed at vilifying public school teachers. FCPS parents already have the ability to call, email, and message teachers regarding curriculum, lesson plans, and more.
- FCPS urges leaders at every level of government to model the type of civil behavior we would expect from our students, keeping our conversations and dialogue rooted in facts and the values we all share – ensuring that we fulfill our fundamental responsibilities to the children we serve.

Federal Priorities

Special Populations

- FCPS urges Congress to fulfill the commitment it made when passing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by fully funding the federal share (forty percent) of special education costs.
- FCPS supports full and ongoing funding of the Title I, Part A grant within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and do not believe these funds should be restricted to competitive grants or used to support any form of portable vouchers.
- FCPS supports federal funding and support for English learners, including full funding to provide local districts the tools and resources to ensure English learners meet the requirements established by Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- FCPS supports federal funding to support states and local school districts in providing universal early childhood education, universal kindergarten, and expanded wraparound services.

Technology and Infrastructure

- FCPS supports continued and sufficient funding for educational technology and internet connectivity (E-Rate) to reduce the digital divide, modernizing the list of eligible services, and streamline processes for application and distribution of funds to eligible districts. FCPS supports the investment of federal infrastructure dollars to modernize public school facilities and equipment.

Student Safety and Success

- FCPS supports common sense legislation to address the scourge of gun violence in our communities, which has claimed the lives of too many children in Fayette County and the Commonwealth.

Workforce and Educator Pipelines

- FCPS supports expanded funding for and attention to marketing and implementing Registered Apprenticeships for students of all abilities.
- FCPS supports efforts at the federal level to expand access to affordable college and higher education for future educators and staff. This includes improvements to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program that would streamline and simplify the application process and support future and current educators facing student loan debt.
- FCPS supports legislative efforts to improve retirement security for school employees in the Commonwealth of Kentucky who are not currently eligible to receive previously earned Social Security benefits, either from prior employment or spousal survivor benefits. This includes, but is not limited to, support for repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO).



The mission of Fayette County Public Schools is to create a collaborative community that ensures all students achieve at high levels and graduate prepared to excel in a global society.