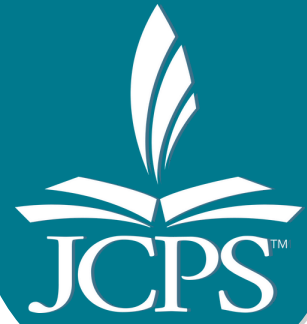


# Legislative Priorities

Kentucky General Assembly 2024



## 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, indexed to inflation, 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, including physical and human infrastructure
- 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, including:

- Any proposals to dilute the authority of the Jefferson County Board of Education relative to other local school boards
- Any proposals aimed at dividing JCPS into multiple districts and making Jefferson County the only community in the state without a unified county school district.

## SCHOOL CHOICE

JCPS opposes any legislation that would limit, hinder, or eliminate the district's current ability to offer robust school choice options to its students and families.

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, multilingual 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 high-quality implicit bias training and multicultural professional development for staff. Further, JCPS opposes efforts to reduce or eliminate current offerings to students and staff in these areas.

JCPS opposes any efforts to discriminate against LGBTQ students, including efforts to prevent equitable access to necessary curriculum, 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 OPERATIONS**

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.

JCPS supports similar legislation to HB 678 (2022) that would streamline the property acquisition and disposition process and reduce administrative burdens and wait times for approval.

JCPS supports legislation to expand school districts' transportation options, which are highly limited to the traditional school buses operated by district-employed CDL-licensed bus drivers.

## **TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

JCPS supports 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 to 10%.

JCPS supports legislation 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.

