

CBE Back on Track Reports

Requested Supt Communications Groups:

1. Review with Finance Officer
2. Review with Senior Leadership team/Supt Cabinet
3. Review with BOE in an open meeting as an oral informational report
4. Meet with area legislators.
5. Meet with various local constituencies that can help advocate for additional school funding.

Matt Robbins
President

Jay Brewer
Secretary

Patricia Sheffer
Treasurer

Jesse Bacon
Vice President

Rob Clayton
Vice President

Thom Cochran
Vice President

Matt Thompson
Vice President

Henry Webb
Vice President

Carrie Ballinger
Vice President

Tom Shelton
Executive Secretary

Essential 10 Talking points:

- Additional funding is needed just to restore SEEK funding to 2008 buying power, adjusted for annual inflation per the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- The SEEK base was \$3,822 in 2008 and in 2023, the SEEK base was \$4,100, a difference of \$278 per student over this 15 year period. To match the inflationary erosion, the SEEK base should be \$5,400 in today's dollars. This represents an additional \$1,300 necessary in the SEEK base.
- The SEEK Base serves as a derivative of the SEEK Add-On's which also provide essential funding for schools, including State Tier 1.
- SEEK Transportation funding, which is required by the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) as a reimbursement of actual expenditures, remains funded at 69% of the district's cost.
- We appreciate the Legislature's assistance last biennium to increase the SEEK transportation funding to 69% of the cost. Still, we are not funded on the remaining 31% the law requires.
- We recognize that an additional \$1,300 per pupil to the SEEK base is a large amount and could happen over a 2 - 4 year period, but we need a commitment to this as a minimum due to the current status. We did not get here overnight, and it is understandable that we cannot resolve this underfunding overnight.
- Additional funding needs to go into the SEEK formula so that it will flow into the districts' General Fund, where approximately 85% of district expenditures are for salaries and related employee benefits.
- This funding allows all education staff to receive an adequate, necessary raise as is being discussed by various statewide education groups. We must be competitive with the marketplace and KY teachers deserve to earn an adequate wage based on the critical roles they play in developing KY's children.
- We do appreciate the Legislature's efforts to fully fund the TRS pension plan as this has made a significant financial difference. However, we must find a way to continue the TRS funding and ensure that our students have the full, inflationary adjusted funding required to provide an excellent education.
- It's time to restore State SEEK to its 2008 buying power.