



KSBA

KENTUCKY SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

Karen Byrd,
President

Kerri Schelling,
Executive Director

One of the key responsibilities of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) board of directors is to carefully consider policy positions that are in the best interest of all public school students and representative of the 857 locally elected school board members charged with the governance of our Commonwealth's 171 public school districts. School board members make up the most diverse group of elected officials in Kentucky. As such, they are a powerful bellwether of how the vast majority of citizens feel about their local public schools and experts on how policies impact students in their local communities.

There is overwhelming consensus among KSBA members on the fundamental principle that public education funds are for public schools, schools that must serve the needs of every student who enters their doors. The framers of Kentucky's constitution so staunchly believed in the necessity of a strong system of common schools that they intentionally required it to be the sole item the legislature must fund.

Many opponents of the amendment call it the Voucher Amendment because, if passed, it would allow public funds to be diverted for use by unaccountable private education providers. Amendment 2 suspends or creates loopholes in seven different sections of the constitution, opening the door to legislation that will syphon away state and local tax dollars to private education providers not accountable to the same oversight, rules, standards, governance or transparency. Nor are they bound by law to serve all students.

Passage of Amendment 2 would negatively impact every public school district in Kentucky, big and small, rural and urban, county and independent - detrimental to the more than 90% of students in Kentucky who currently attend public schools.

For these reasons, KSBA vehemently opposes Amendment 2 and will be urging Kentuckians to vote no. Between now and Nov. 5, KSBA will be working tirelessly to provide school board teams with the resources and support to effectively inform their communities of the threat to public schools posed by the Voucher Amendment.

KSBA and its members stand united with a multitude of other concerned groups – both in and out of the public education advocacy space - in our opposition to the amendment. One way KSBA's board of directors has chosen to demonstrate that solidarity is through endorsement of Protect Our Schools Kentucky, a coalition comprised of a growing list of aligned community stakeholders that includes the organizations representing superintendents, school administrators, current and retired teachers, education support professionals, school social workers, parents and students – among many others.

KSBA Executive Director Kerri Schelling recently said it best: "The Voucher Amendment is not singularly an issue of funding, or local control, or accountability, or equity, or efficiency, or student outcomes. It's an issue binding them all together with enormous ramifications for all Kentuckians."

Amendment 2, the Voucher Amendment, public funds for private schools... No matter what you call it, it's a bad idea for Kentucky's public schools and the 650,000 students they currently serve.