

# Kentucky Board of EDUCATION

## 2026 Legislative Priorities

The Kentucky Board of Education is committed to improving the future of all Kentuckians by providing leadership, advancing policy, and cultivating community partnerships to ensure every student has equitable access to high-quality, lifelong learning.

We pledge to develop authentic partnerships with other Kentucky agencies and education stakeholders to strengthen our efforts and maximize impact. To that end, we establish the following legislative priorities for the 2026 Regular Session:

### 1. Continue the work of Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) in partnership with the KUWL Council

- Advocate for legislative backing to promote the reimagined assessment and accountability systems. This includes fostering conversations around innovative approaches to measuring student success and ensuring the systems are meaningful and useful to all learners.

### 2. Support the Educator Workforce

- **Educator Preparation:** Collaborate with the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to update educator preparation programs (EPPs), ensuring future educators are well prepared in both the art and science of teaching and equipped to create vibrant learning experiences for every student.
- **Educator Recruitment and Retention:** Continue advocacy regarding teacher scholarships and additional mentoring to improve the attractiveness of the teaching profession.
  - Explore the possibility of a statewide common application system to support future educators in their search for a teaching placement and districts in their identification of high-quality candidates.
  - Advocate for a reimagining of the existing teacher scholarship, such as envisioned in [Senate Bill 253](#) from the 2025 Regular Session, that could provide a tuition-free pathway into the classroom.

### 3. Secure Additional Funding for Key Initiatives

- **Numeracy Counts Act Professional Development:** Provide targeted professional development and school-based math coaches to educators to enhance math instruction and ensure the successful implementation of the Numeracy Counts Act.
- **Read to Succeed Literacy Coaches:** Increase funding for continuing professional learning academies and school-based literacy coaches who can deliver job-embedded training and support for educators at all levels to improve literacy outcomes.

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- **Universal Preschool:** Advocate for additional funding to expand preschool access to support the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills to ensure more students enter kindergarten ready to learn and be successful.
- **High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs):** Support districts in adopting HQIRs that align with standards and promote grade-level, high-quality instruction in every classroom and/or invest in curriculum-based professional learning aligned to the adopted resources to support effective HQIR implementation. Funding also will be used to establish and sustain the HQIR repository and support the statutorily-required work of the State Quality Curriculum Taskforce.
- **Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS):** Invest in the ongoing maintenance and sustainability of KETS ensuring that districts have access to modern educational technologies that enhance teaching and learning.
- **Full-Day Kindergarten:** Advocate for the codification of funding for full-day kindergarten to ensure that all students have the opportunity to build a strong foundation for future learning.
- **School Safety:** Support ongoing efforts to create school environments where student and educator well-being is prioritized.

#### 4. Statutory Updates and Clean-up

- **Stagger Board of Education Terms:** Amend KRS 156.029 to increase stability of the Board by staggering the turnover of the Supreme Court seats.
- **Council for Education Technology:** Remove or amend outdated references to the Council for Education Technology, which was repealed in 2006, from current statutes.
- **KETS Teacher Home Computer Program:** Eliminate the obsolete KETS teacher home computer statute, which no longer aligns with current education technology needs.

**5. Facilities:** Work directly with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and KDE advisory council(s) to explore pathways to modernize the funding of district facilities.

**6. Review and Update Substitute Teaching Statute (KRS 161.102(5)):** Address limitations on districts that currently restrict use of emergency certified substitutes to no more than 20 days.

**7. Continue the historic investment in Career and Technical Education (CTE) by addressing current funding inequities between Area Technology Centers (ATCs) and local centers.**

- Include the ATCs in the CTE funding formula and increase CTE funding by \$15 million to hold local programs harmless.