

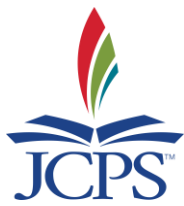
## 2026 Kentucky General Assembly Legislative Priorities

### Funding

- JCPS supports ongoing efforts to adequately and equitably fund public education at the state level in a manner that recognizes the resources necessary for students of all backgrounds to achieve to the best of their abilities, as mandated by the Kentucky Constitution and clarified in *Rose v. Council for Better Education* (1989).
  - A statutory rate increase for SEEK tied to inflation should be instituted so that base funding for schools at least keeps pace with original KERA funding.
  - The state should transition to an Average Daily Membership (ADM) model that is more reflective of district costs than the current Average Daily Attendance (ADA) model.
  - SEEK add-on funding weights for low-income, multilingual, special needs, and home/hospital students should be reviewed to ensure the relative costs for educating those cohorts reflect the modern costs of educating those students, rather than relying on 30-year-old cost models.
  - SEEK Transportation should be fully funded according to statute, reflecting the most recent actual costs available to the General Assembly.
  - Full-day funding for kindergarten should be permanently codified in statute.
  - The School Safety and Resiliency Act of 2019 should be fully funded, including both school security and mental health resources.
  - The state should invest in universal pre-kindergarten, beginning with the necessary physical infrastructure and development of human capital.
  - School technology funding, including cybersecurity funding, should be increased to reflect the evolving technology needs and mandates of schools.
- JCPS supports efforts to give school districts more flexibility to raise funds locally as recognition that state funding is not keeping pace with rising costs.
- JCPS opposes any use of state tax revenue or exclusion of anticipated revenue that would divert funding away from traditional public schools and into unaccountable private schools, including schemes like vouchers, tuition credits, tax credits, and funding for charter schools.

### Staff Recruitment & Retention

- JCPS supports greater local autonomy for classroom staff qualifications including state-mandated assessments that present unnecessary obstacles to employing qualified certified and classified staff.



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### Equity

- JCPS encourages state-level support for curriculum and resources that recognize the diverse needs and interests of our students, and provides for them appropriately in a manner that promotes improved academic outcomes for all.

### Facilities

- JCPS supports permanent codification of the current streamlined process for property acquisition and facilities construction, which has worked well to benefit students.
- JCPS supports modernization and equity in school facilities funding statewide, ensuring that every student has the learning environment they need to achieve to their maximum ability.

### Accountability

- JCPS supports efforts by the Kentucky Department of Education and its partners to reform 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, recognizes student growth, and does not unfairly punish schools with populations of students requiring additional resources, including multilingual learners. As part of this updated accountability system, JCPS supports a state assessment system that is meaningful and engaging to students.

### Treatment of Local Districts

- JCPS opposes legislation that would create any unfunded mandate for local school districts. As an example, recent legislation has mandated districts increase the number of school resource officers, without providing adequate funding to fully cover the costs involved.
- JCPS opposes legislation that imposes greater obligations or restrictions on the district that are not applied to other school districts.

### Student Health & Safety

- JCPS supports legislation that would increase access to mental health supports for students, including additional funds set aside for school-based licensed mental health service providers that allow districts to take advantage of Federal Medicaid dollars through the Free Care waiver.
- JCPS supports efforts to encourage the secure storage of firearms and ammunition in order to limit irresponsible access by minors and reduce the presence of weapons on school campuses.