

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses with "SCHOOL BUS" written on the front. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. The rest of the slide is white.

2026 General Assembly Update

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Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

KBE/KDE Priorities

- [HB 257](#) (Payne) - proposed changes to the assessment and accountability system
- [SB 22](#) (Higdon) – expanded dual credit for registered teacher apprenticeship programs
 - Passed Senate 36-1, reported favorably from House Postsecondary Education, posted for passage, recommitted to A&R
- [HB 727](#) (Riley) – awaiting concurrence in the House
 - Replace KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - ~~Stagger KBE board terms~~
 - Replace KEPS with statewide job portal using existing funds from certification fees
 - [SB 207](#) clean-up – ~~extend time for KBE to review waiver requests~~, allow the Commissioner to approve class size waiver requests for special education, & remove the automatic expiration of waivers related to district facility projects
 - Repeal [KRS 156.690](#) (Teachers' computer purchase program)
 - Repeal statutory language concerning the Council for Education Technology (CET) which has not been needed nor met in over 33 years
 - Clarify ownership/authority regarding the FFA Leadership Training Center
 - Mirror maternity leave provided to district employees under [SB 9 \(2025\)](#) for KRS 156 employees (ATCs)
- SB 181 (2025) clean-up
 - [HB 67](#) (Payne)
 - Also has most of [SB 3](#) (Tichenor)
- [HB 759](#) - modify and reestablish alternative teacher certification options as alternative routes
 - Passed House 96-0, reported favorably from Senate Education on consent, returned to Rules
 - Also now in [SB 124](#); awaiting House floor vote

House Bill 500

- SEEK: \$4,626 in FY27 & \$4,792 in FY28
 - Up from \$4,586 in FY26
- SEEK Transportation
 - \$398,884,500 in each fiscal year
 - \$491,979,038 estimated need
- Academic Academies (Craft, Gatton, & Votruba):
 - Students will no longer be included in the average daily attendance of the students' districts of residence for the purpose of calculating SEEK
- LARS
 - ATCs included in the supplemental funding
 - Our programs are funded for both years of the biennium
- KBE leadership employment language not included
- Reduction in travel (in- and out-of-state) in the 4th quarter

House Bill 500– reductions

Take the necessary steps to reduce, modify, or eliminate the expenditures of state agencies in the following priority order:

1. Temporary Manpower
2. Services personnel and contracts
3. Out-of-state travel
4. Providing food and meals that cost more than is set out in the in-state travel guideline allowance for employees attending meetings
5. Prior written approval of the agency head for any conference, meeting, or event that will require in-state travel of 20 employees or more
6. Abolishment of positions that have remained vacant for six months
7. Moratorium on all discretionary salary increases
8. Reduction, modification, or elimination of programs or services not required by state or federal law or regulation

House Bill 900

- **FFA Leadership Training Center - Activity Center**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **CTE Supplemental funding**
 - \$14,000,000 in each year
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project – Covington**
 - \$2,500,000 in FY27
- **School of Innovation Pilot Project - two schools to be selected**
 - \$5,000,000 in FY28
- **SFCC – Marion, Clay, McCreary, Frankfort, Lyon, Todd, Williamstown, Lincoln, Garrard, Russellville, McCracken**
 - Various amounts

Senate Bills

- [SB 1](#) (Givens) changes to JCPS board/superintendent roles and responsibilities.
- [SB 2](#) (Adams) limit superintendent/administrator percentage pay increase greater than the average percentage pay increase provided to classroom teachers within the district.
- [SB 4](#) (West)
 - Four-year principal training and mentoring program
 - \$1m in each year in HB 500
 - Reduces JCPS board to five and provides initial maps for new districts
- [SB 5](#) (Howell) aims to get more local/KY Proud food in schools
- [SB 46](#) (Deneen) permits schools to use non-school bus passenger vehicles designed for ten.
- [SB 59](#) (Rawlings) relating to prohibited uses of tax dollars and resources
- [SB 101](#) (Nunn) mandatory 12-month expulsion for students in 6-12th grade that intentionally caused or attempted to cause physical injury to a school district employee on school property or at a school function under the board's jurisdiction
- [SB 170](#) (Storm) establish a pilot program to be known as the Supporting Opportunities for Accountability and Restoration Program for children who are truant
- [SB 263](#) (West) schools of innovation & innovation fund

House Bills

- [HB 1](#) (Moser) the qualified elementary and secondary education scholarship federal tax credit
- [HB 4](#) (Proctor) anti-grooming
- [HB 7](#) (Hale) stop arm cameras for school buses
- [HB 10](#) (Hodgson) Senate confirmations
 - KBE & EPSB chairs will now require Senate confirmation
 - School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council (SCAAC) members and chair will now require Senate confirmation
- [HB 253](#) (Tipton)
 - Three-cueing prohibition
 - Prohibits nondisclosure agreements relating to misconduct involving a minor or student
- [HB 280](#) (Moser) permit schools to stock undesignated glucagon
- [HB 307](#) (Tipton) proactive postsecondary admission
- [HB 555](#) (Pollack) permit student-based enterprises within their district to sell competitive foods throughout the school day
- [HB 562](#) (Truett) alternative high school diplomas
- [HB 757](#) (Petrie) revenue bill
- [HB 778](#) (Wilson) changes who in a district and/or school is notified by a court-designated worker when a diversion agreement is developed
- [HB 900](#) (Petrie) one-time spending projects

House Bill 727 – The Omnibus

- All the previously mentioned clean-up items
- [HB 621](#) (Bojanowski) class sizes for exceptional children and youth
- [HB 654](#) (Baker) clean-up to HB48 (2025)
- [HB 685](#) (Riley) require the Education Professional Standards Board to issue a 5-year teaching certificate to eligible applicants; School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact
- [SB 71](#) (Deneen) update the annual in-service training requirements for local board of education members

KDE Legislative Guidance

- <https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/LegislativeGuidance/Pages/default.aspx>
- One main guidance document with supplemental guidance as needed

Questions

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