

2026-2028 Legislative Priorities

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) is committed to fostering an educational environment in the Commonwealth that ensures equitable learning opportunities for every student and staff member by recognizing their unique strengths and needs and collaborating with families and communities to provide resources necessary for their success

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 2026-2028 biennium:

1. Advance Kentucky's Reimagined Assessment and Accountability System

- Promote wide-spread implementation of Kentucky's Reimagined Assessment and Accountability System, including locally developed indicators of quality authorized under House Bill 257 (2026).
- This includes continued support for the work of United We Learn in partnership with the Kentucky United We Learn Council to advance meaningful, useful measures of student success and vibrant learning experiences for all learners.

2. Strengthen and Sustain Kentucky's Educator Workforce

- Advocate for strategic investments across the educator career continuum: recruitment, preparation, induction, career growth, and retirement. This includes:
 - i. Reimagined teacher scholarships that could provide a tuition-free pathway into the classroom;
 - ii. Mentoring for early, mid-career, and veteran educators to improve recruitment, retention, and long-term workforce stability; and
 - iii. Continued collaborations with the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to ensure future educators are well prepared in both the art and science of teaching and equipped to create vibrant learning experiences for every student.
- Strengthen the pipeline of effective school and district leaders by increasing support for principal mentorship initiatives established through Senate Bill 4 (2026) and other talent-development supports that recruit, develop, and retain leaders who drive continuous improvement, foster educator success, and develop positive student outcomes.

3. Secure Adequate and Sustainable Funding for Student Success and School Improvement

- **Vibrant Learning for Every Student:** Advocate for sustained investment so every Kentucky learner—including students experiencing poverty, students with disabilities, gifted/talented learners, multilingual/English learners—can access high-quality, engaging, and supportive learning from early childhood through college, career, and military readiness pathways.
 - i. Identify opportunities to strengthen and scale cross-sector partnerships among Kentucky schools, families, communities, employers, and service providers to provide high-quality, lifelong learning and comprehensive supports that improve student outcomes.
 - ii. Build systems that remove barriers and improve measurable outcomes across the education continuum.
- **Operational Efficiency for Public Schools:**
 - i. Support ongoing efforts to create school environments where student and educator well-being is prioritized.
 - ii. Continue to work directly with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and KDE advisory councils to explore pathways to modernize the funding of district facilities.
- Continue the effective and responsible use of technology to advance student learning and operational efficiency through support for the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS).

4. Statutory Clean-Up

- Advance priorities that improve the operational efficiency of Kentucky's public schools through greater flexibility for local innovation and continuous improvement.
- Improve the operational efficiency of Kentucky's public schools by removing outdated, duplicative mandates that divert time and resources from high-quality teaching and learning.