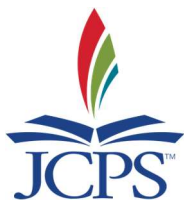


2027 Kentucky General Assembly Jefferson County Public Schools Legislative Priorities

Funding

- JCPS supports ongoing efforts for the Kentucky General Assembly to adequately and equitably fund public education 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.
 - SEEK add-on funding weights for low-income, multilingual, special needs, and home/hospital students should be reviewed and revised to ensure the relative costs for educating those cohorts reflect the actual cost providing required services, specialized staffing, and related services, rather than relying on 30-year-old cost models.
 - SEEK Transportation should be fully funded in accordance with state law, and reflect the most recent actual costs available to the General Assembly.
 - The School Safety and Resiliency Act of 2019 should be fully funded, including funding for 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, and should incorporate funding for Pre-K programs into the SEEK formula to reflect the actual costs of educating students with disabilities and at-risk students.
 - 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, and opposes efforts to reduce that flexibility, as recognition that state funding is not keeping pace with rising costs.



2027 Kentucky General Assembly Jefferson County Public Schools Legislative Priorities

Assessment & Accountability

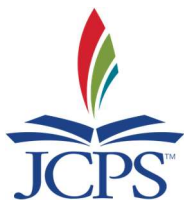
- JCPS supports updates to the state's school assessment and accountability system that align with school improvement efforts, including a focus on student-centered metrics rather than the actions of adults, as well as timely testing feedback that can be used to design classroom instruction.

Treatment of Local Districts

- JCPS opposes legislation that would create any unfunded or underfunded mandate for local school districts.
- JCPS opposes legislation that imposes greater obligations or restrictions on the district that are not applied to all 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, allowing 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 unsafe and unsupervised access by minors and reduce the presence of weapons on school campuses.
- JCPS supports efforts to clearly define the responsibilities of school districts, families, Medicaid, behavioral health providers, and state agencies for students with significant medical, mental health or behavioral needs. This includes ensuring that districts can provide an appropriate education to students with disabilities and a safe, appropriate educational environment for all students, while establishing shared state and interagency responsibility for clinical treatment, medical care, and residential services that extend beyond the educational responsibility of schools.



2027 Kentucky General Assembly Jefferson County Public Schools Legislative Priorities

Staff Recruitment & Retention

- JCPS supports greater local autonomy for determining classroom staff qualifications, including state mandated assessments that present unnecessary obstacles to employing qualified certified and classified staff.
- JCPS supports efforts to streamline the hiring process for certified employees, including methods to pre-approve expedited waivers for high-need positions and agreements with other certifying jurisdictions with similar certification requirements, as well as statewide streamlined background screening.
- JCPS supports initiatives to strengthen recruitment and retention pipelines for teachers and paraprofessionals, including grow-your-own pathways, teacher apprenticeship programs, targeted scholarship programs, and strengthened training and certification for substitute teachers. These initiatives should include particularly focus on high-need positions, including special education, STEM, multilingual instruction, and early childhood.
- JCPS supports continued study of teacher retiree reemployment reforms in order to keep experienced professionals in the classroom.

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 in state law 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 high-quality learning environment they need to achieve to their maximum ability.