

Fayette County Public Schools | Legislative Priorities 2020

Funding for Elementary & Secondary Education in the Context of State Tax Reform

As changes to the tax structure and other reforms are under review, the General Assembly should ensure the revenue generated is sufficient to fully fund elementary and secondary education. FCPS endorses legislation that modernizes the SEEK formula and addresses the loss of state SEEK funding for districts with increasing property values.

As the state budget and tax reform that produces new revenue are considered, additional revenue is urgently needed to meet current commitments with these goals in mind:

- Ensuring revenue to increase base SEEK funding and restore flex focus funds.
- Continuing to provide and fully fund a defined benefit type of pension plan for teachers.
- Funding full-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten.
- Protecting the Learning and Results Services (LARS) programs that directly serve our students, including family resource/youth service centers, state agency children, gifted and talented and extended school services (ESS).
- Committing to the full funding of last year's "General Assembly Bill 1" for school safety, with a significant investment to expand and support mental health staff and services in light of the recent focus by the Legislature, health experts, and law enforcement.
- Meeting the state's responsibility for student transportation.
- Continuing growth and support for high school students to earn college credit and participate in apprenticeships.
- Supporting legislation to advance and promote educational opportunities for students with dyslexia.
- Eliminating the penalty paid by districts when a pre-retirement increase in compensation is legitimate and is not an attempt to inappropriately inflate retirement benefits.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education: Stephanie Spires, Chair • Raymond Daniels, Vice Chair • Daryl Love • Christy Morris • Tyler Murphy

Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk

701 East Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 • Phone: 859.381.4100 • www.fcps.net

Mailing Address: 1126 Russell Cave Rd., Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Use of Public Funds for Non-Public Schools

The Fayette County Board of Education fully endorses legislation that enhances and promotes public education, and staunchly opposes the use of public dollars to support programs that fund non-public schools, such as private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, or donations to “school choice” funds.

Innovation and Governance

As the Administration, House and Senate consider improvements to the structure and process of Kentucky 's public schools, there are essential areas of action needed:

- Provide superintendents and school boards facing unique challenges with the additional tools and greater flexibility to achieve better results and intervene in schools where students are not being served at high levels, prior to state identification.
- Maintain local decision-making authority related to the academic calendar, and provide flexibility as it relates to setting graduation dates, while ensuring stakeholder voices are represented, including the local business community.

Where Public School Students Attend

Local district control for its student assignment plan is fundamental to keep in place. School districts should be depended on to conduct reliable, community-wide efforts to ensure student assignment to individual schools is based on common sense as well as the growth patterns of the community. Creation of an arbitrary state mandate is not workable.

Public school students should attend the schools in the school district where they live. Changing schools from one district to another without physically moving creates uncertainty about budgets, the use of many assets and investments from buses to buildings, and most importantly the assignment of teachers and staff.