



Fayette County Public Schools

2022 Legislative Priorities

Part I. Kentucky Priorities

Funding

FCPS supports full and adequate funding for all Kentucky public schools as required by the Kentucky Constitution and *Rose v. Council for Better Education* specifying that the sole responsibility for funding public schools lies with the state legislature, a responsibility that cannot be shifted to local districts.

- FCPS supports increasing the SEEK per pupil guaranteed base to account for inflation. Further FCPS encourages lawmakers to consider the impact of unfunded mandates, increased responsibilities on schools, and the unique and growing needs of our children and communities. This includes an increase to the SEEK add-on rate for exceptional children, which would provide local districts more tools and resources to ensure equitable services and instruction for all students.
- FCPS supports full state funding for all-day kindergarten and universal early childhood education. FCPS also supports flexibilities on infrastructure to expand early childhood opportunities. These initiatives should not be used as bargaining chips to advance legislation that would otherwise undermine funding for public education.
- FCPS supports full funding for Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSCs), Extended School Services (ESS), and related Learning and Results Services (LARS) programming.
- FCPS supports the HANDS program, which provides important services for parents and expecting parents of students ages 0-3.
- FCPS supports restoration of state funding for programs and initiatives to provide for educator professional development and recruitment and retention. This includes teacher internship and mentorship programs, professional development, and education scholarships to attract diverse applicants to the teaching profession.
- FCPS supports full funding of the actuarially required contributions (ARC, ADEC, ADC) for employees participating in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) Kentucky and County Employees Retirement System (CERS). FCPS also supports upholding the shared responsibility arrangement providing full state funding for retiree health insurance.
- FCPS opposes any changes to the KTRS for current employees or new hires that would shift the burden of pension payments to local districts, undermine the promises provided in the inviolable pension contract, or make it more difficult to recruit and hire new staff.
- FCPS supports full funding of the state's responsibility for student transportation costs. FCPS also supports funded initiatives to modernize school bus fleets to reduce districts' carbon footprint.
- FCPS supports the state's continued equalization of local nickel taxes levied by school boards for facility improvements and oppose efforts that make it more difficult for local districts to respond to local needs through the collection of local revenue. FCPS also supports efforts to make Kentucky's revenue streams more efficient and to seek additional sources of revenue to support public education.



Part I. Kentucky Priorities ctd.

Protect Public Education

FCPS opposes any effort to shift or divert tax dollars away from our public schools or to decrease revenue available for public school funding. We oppose state support and/or funding for private school tuition, including vouchers, scholarship tax credits, education opportunity accounts, or any variation thereof. FCPS opposes funding for charter schools, especially while public schools remain underfunded.

Corporations and individuals can already donate under charitable contribution law to private school scholarships. Public tax dollars should be used to support and expand educational opportunities for children within our public schools.

Local Control

FCPS supports local control in all decisions relating to teaching, learning, and curriculum. Therefore, FCPS opposes any legislative intervention that undermines these decisions, stifles the freedom of speech, or denies our schools and educators the opportunity to ensure every child sees themselves and diverse perspectives in their learning environment.

School Safety

FCPS supports funding for mental health, school psychologists, and counseling services. FCPS also supports investments in social-emotional learning and funding to reduce counselor-to-student ratios.

At a time when there is heightened awareness around public education, FCPS is working to continue to provide a safe and open environment for all stakeholders to share ideas and varying viewpoints that remain focused on the needs of all students. Thus, FCPS urges leaders at every level of government to model the type of civil behavior we would expect from our students, keeping our conversations and dialogue rooted in facts and the values we all share – ensuring that we fulfill our fundamental responsibilities to the children we serve.





Part I. Kentucky Priorities ctd.

Racial Equity

FCPS supports statewide initiatives to promote and support meaningful conversations and actions in public schools around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Any mandated programming for districts needs adequate funding, support, and staffing to target and reduce opportunity gaps impacting children and families.

FCPS supports the role of Site-Based Decision Making Councils in providing representation for families and educators in school decision making. We support efforts to strengthen minority representation on SBDMs, especially in majority-minority schools.

FCPS supports legislation that would allow local school boards to add a student representative to the superintendent screening committee.

FCPS supports maintaining local district control for student assignment to schools. Local districts are best equipped to understand the unique needs of their children, communities, and families as well as available resources to support teaching and learning. We oppose arbitrary mandates related to student assignment.

Student Success

FCPS supports allowing all students who graduate from Kentucky high schools or receive a GED in Kentucky and choose to attend college in Kentucky to be eligible for in-state tuition regardless of their immigration status.

FCPS opposes the use of accountability metrics for high-stakes decisions or arbitrary classifications that do not provide real-time data to assist teachers or provide interventions. Accountability test results can be one of many tools local districts use to monitor progress and plan interventions.

FCPS supports legislation recognizing dyslexia as a learning disability and supports added funding to assist districts in increased screening and interventions to support students with dyslexia.



Part II. Federal Priorities

IDEA

FCPS urges Congress to fulfill the commitment it made when passing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by fully funding the federal share (forty percent) of special education costs.

Technology and Infrastructure

FCPS supports continued and sufficient funding for educational technology and internet connectivity (E-Rate) to reduce the digital divide, modernizing the list of eligible services, and streamline processes for application and distribution of funds to eligible districts.

FCPS supports the investment of federal infrastructure dollars to modernize public school facilities and equipment.





Part II. Federal Priorities ctd.

Program Funds

FCPS supports full and ongoing funding of the Title I, Part A grant within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and do not believe these funds should be restricted to competitive grants or used to support any form of portable vouchers.

FCPS supports federal funding and support for English learners, including full funding to provide local districts the tools and resources to ensure English learners meet the requirements established by Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

FCPS supports federal funding to support states and local school districts in providing universal early childhood education, universal kindergarten, and expanded wraparound services.

Student Safety and Success

FCPS supports common sense legislation to address the scourge of gun violence in our communities, which has claimed the lives of too many children in Fayette County and the Commonwealth.

FCPS supports passage of the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, which would provide Dreamers attending FCPS and public schools across the country a legal pathway to citizenship and encourage them to remain in school.

FCPS believes in the value of local decision making and oppose any federal effort to impose mandates or requirements that do not account for local realities and are not fully funded.

Workforce and Educator Pipelines

FCPS supports improvements to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program that would address the program's deficiencies, streamline and simplify the application process, and support future and current educators facing student loan debt.

FCPS supports efforts at the federal level to expand access to affordable college and higher education for future educators and staff.

FCPS supports legislative efforts to improve retirement security for school employees in the Commonwealth of Kentucky who are not currently eligible to receive previously earned Social Security benefits, either from prior employment or spousal survivor benefits. This includes, but is not limited to, support for repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO).