

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.
- Align tribunals conducted for teachers charged with serious misconduct towards students consistent with state agency hearings, which make use of a trained hearing officer for decisions. This will achieve more consistent results and promote effective learning, protecting teachers' due process rights, and fairness to all parties including students.
- Enact a robust review process, with clear school board authority to overturn a council action that hinders the efficient operation of the district as a whole.
- Allow school boards to suspend SBDM council authority, if warranted, in the interest of student advancement.
- Maintain local decision-making authority related to the academic calendar while ensuring stakeholder voices are represented, including the local business community.

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 for elementary and secondary education funding to be maintained or increased. FCPS endorses legislation that modernizes the SEEK formula to address 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:

- Assure revenue to increase base SEEK funding and restore flex focus funds.
- Full day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten.
- Protect 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).
- Expand and support mental health services to students in light of recent focus on these issues by health experts and the legislature.
- Urge full federal funding of IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.



- Eliminate the penalty paid by districts when a pre-retirement increase in compensation is legitimate, and is not an attempt to inappropriately inflate retirement benefits.
- Meet the state's responsibility for student transportation.

Use of Public Funds for Non-Public Schools

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

Where Public 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 assure 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.