



## **Kids First Kentucky Overview Talking Points**

- Kids First Kentucky is an initiative of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents.
- We need to ensure that our students, teachers, and schools can be at their best physically and psychologically in and outside the classroom.
- When Kentucky public schools succeed, the Commonwealth succeeds.
- Funding for Kentucky public schools needs to 'get back on track' because Kentucky kids are falling behind.
- Kentucky lawmakers need to:
  1. Bring seek dollars to the inflationary 2008 funding level.
  2. Ensure school district funding keeps pace with inflation and rising costs of construction and maintenance projects.
  3. Fully fund school transportation, including increased costs for bus drivers, buses, fuel and mechanics.
- That's why Kentucky lawmakers need to:
  1. Provide incentives (apprenticeships, scholarships, "Learn & Earn" opportunities, etc.) to enter the education profession.
  2. Identify the education career pathway as a high-demand work sector.
  3. Encourage young people to pursue education as a career through Educator Rising chapters integrated at every level of the Kentucky public school system.
- We need to make sure Kentucky students, their families, teachers and staff have access to the mental health services and support they need in and outside the classroom.
- It's imperative that Kentucky lawmakers:
  1. Fully fund the School Safety and Resiliency Act of 2019, to provide for SROs and mental health professionals on each campus.
  2. Institute early intervention options prior to students entering the juvenile justice system.
  3. Increase access to mental health services for every student and ensure Kentucky families can obtain help when and where they need it.