

# **KASS 2024 KIDS FIRST LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

## **Top Priorities**

**Increase the SEEK base taking steps to bring it to the inflationary equivalent to the 2008 base ~\$5400 to bolster the investment in public education to meet the state goals for education and address the workforce challenges facing Kentucky schools.**

- Increase the SEEK base over the next two biennial budgets to get the SEEK funding “back on track” to the 2008 inflationary equivalency.
- Fully fund pupil transportation.
- Permanently fund and codify full-day kindergarten funding to provide school boards and superintendents the confidence to make long term investments with the funding for the best returns to meet the needs of students.
- Fully funding the School Safety and Resiliency Act of 2019.
- Fully fund the ARC for TRS and MITF.
- Require a Fiscal Note or Financial Impact Statement for every education bill to ensure No Unfunded Mandates.
- Ensure a revenue stream to fund P-12 education to meet the goals of the state including expanded local options for elected boards of education.

Funding schools through the basic education funding mechanism will allow local boards of education to deploy fiscal resources where needed based on the local context including addressing student learning needs, raising salaries for teachers and other staff, and providing a safe, conducive learning environment.

**Enhance the Profession of Education to attract, retain and support high quality professionals working with and around our students.** Implement policies that promote the profession of education and highlight the importance of our schools in community, economic, and human development.

- Provide funding through SEEK to support professional educator salaries competitive with other professions with commensurate education and training requirements.
- Revise the [state certified minimum salary schedule](#) to increase educator salaries over the next several biennial budgets.
- Provide incentives to the multiple pathways to the education profession including paid apprenticeships and other financial incentives for “Learn and Earn” paths to certification. Create public/private funding frameworks with state matches to fund paid apprenticeships, along with scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for tuition assistance.
- Identify the education career pathway as a high demand work sector and support dual credit college courses through the work-ready scholarship program and post-secondary training/credentialing through the Teacher Scholarship through KHEEA.
- Provide a framework and funding for effective onboarding and induction support for new teachers, principals and superintendents to enhance leadership and instructional capacity at all levels of schools and districts.
- Charge EPSB with reforming certification limits to broaden options for schools and districts to maximize the talents of their teachers to meet the needs of their students. (eg. K-8, 6-12 certs) Consider changes to the gatekeepers of certification to provide multiple paths to demonstrate competencies for earning certification (“weed in” vs. “weed out”)
- Align educator professional development requirements with educator contracts to emphasize job-embedded training and personalized learning to enhance instructional and leadership capacities.
- Support a “grassroots campaign” through educator rising chapters in every middle school, high school and education preparation program in the state including a robust slate of student activities to cultivate their knowledge and interest in the education career pathway.

**Continue to fund and fine tune the School Safety and Resiliency Act to enhance support for safety, mental health and well-being of our students and staff.**

- Fully fund SRO's for each school campus in the Commonwealth.
- Provide funding to move toward the ratio goal of 1:250 mental health professionals to students, along with mental health screening assessments.
- Provide flexibility to ensure security services to allow creative solutions based on local community assets and needs.

**Improve school facility construction funding and administration process.**

- Reduce redundancies and enhance efficiencies in the process...
- Consider bringing all districts to a dime equalized for facility funding.
- Study other facility funding models to modernize the process and right-size the funding structure.
- Provide equalization to all facility nickels.

**Require a Fiscal Note or Financial Impact Statement for every education bill to ensure No Unfunded Mandates.**

**Oppose any privatization of public funds for education**, including the exclusion of anticipated revenue that would divert funding away from public schools. Reform the charter school funding mechanism passed with HB9 of 2022.

**Remove Barriers to Unleash Learning:**

**Implement key policies to promote and support Personalized, Deep Learning to help each child to develop the knowledge and skills aligned to their unique talents and passions that will propel them to life-readiness upon graduation. Implement policies to support community-based local accountability around the needs and interests of students, parents, and employers.**

- Revise the state accountability policy to include local, community-based accountability components with the state components to ensure the

education goals of the state and local community are prioritized and aligned to the expected benefits to students.

- Create graduation requirements to provide more flexibility for students to pursue a personalized education aligned to the state standards.
- Allow more flexibility in academic calendars and seat time requirements for anytime, anyplace learning and innovative educational programs.
- Move from a compliance-based professional development policy to a growth-mindset, empowerment policy aligned to educator contracts to enhance the instructional and leadership capacities of teachers, principals, superintendents and other certified staff.
- Provide more flexibility of certification options to unleash teachers to meet the needs of students. Grade-level and content area requirements currently stifle schools and districts' use of their local talent, particularly in science and math.
- Align educator preparation programs at Kentucky colleges and universities for delivery of personalized, deep learning instruction to enhance student learning outcomes.

#### Other Priorities

- Provide additional options to district employee background checks.
- Improve homeschool provider qualifications & eligibility requirements for homeschool students.
- Allow Local Decision-Making to prevail as often as possible to empower local stakeholder engagement in our schools. Local context and input matter greatly and we have learned that one-size-fits-all approaches are often not the best solutions.