



KEA Legislative Budget Priorities 2022 Kentucky General Assembly

KEA's priorities for the 2022 legislative session are:

- **Meaningful pay increase for ALL educators.**
- **Significant increase to SEEK.**
- **Fund full day Kindergarten.**
- **Continue funding all pension systems at Actuarially Determined Contribution rate.**
- **Funding for whole child services including physical, mental, and emotional health.**
- **Increase resources for student and educator mental health services.**

Secure Increased Funding for Public Schools

The impacts of the global pandemic have highlighted just how important our public-school systems and the everyday impact they have on our communities. More than ever, Kentucky is relying on its public schools to educate, feed, and physically and emotionally support every student. Faced with that reality and a continuing surplus, now is an opportunity for the General Assembly to fully fund its constitutional obligation to maintain a strong system of public schools.

Public Education investments should include:

- *Increasing per-pupil SEEK funding.*
- *Fully funding the state's required contributions to all public pension systems, including the Teachers' Retirement System.*
- *Funding the state's portion of health insurance coverage for teacher retirees under the age of 65.*
- *Provide full funding for district transportation costs.*
- *Minimum starting salary of \$40,000 for new teachers.*
- *Guarantee a living wage of at least \$15 an hour for all hourly school employees.*
- *Funding for textbooks and school technology.*
- *Reinstate and fully fund cost of living adjustments for KRS participants.*
- *Funding to support pre-school in low-income areas.*
- *Invest in new schools and facilities.*
- *Continue investment in high-speed broadband.*
- *Funding for teacher scholarships.*
- *Hiring more school social workers and increasing salaries.*
- *Invest in a robust NBCT support program.*



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Public Education investment has a large economic impact on our communities:

Increasing Funds to the Education Budget would have a positive effect on our economy. Kentucky's education system needed more investment prior to Covid-19. It is now crucial that funds be invested in education that will help create jobs, raise incomes, and help Kentucky students reach their highest potential. Investments in education have an economic snowball effect in every region of the commonwealth and increases our state's revenue creating stability and progress into the future.

Historic budget surplus creates an opportunity to invest in Kentucky's Public Schools and communities:

- *Funding for school counselors and mental health professionals as mandated by SB1(2019).*
- *More funding for access to necessary community mental and physical health services.*
- *Additional investments in Kentucky's infrastructure to ensure the safety of the roads and bridges students travel each school day.*
- *Continued investment in Broadband to ensure every child has the opportunity to access the technology they need to receive a high quality education.*

RESPONSIBLE INCREASE IN REVENUE

- *Close tax loopholes and end unnecessary tax credits.*
- *Do not implement regressive taxation.*
- *Reject and repeal education tax credits, school vouchers, or any other scheme that foregoes collections or siphons money away from legitimate public uses.*

FULLY FUND A FIRST-RATE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERY STUDENT

- *Increase revenue without regressive taxation.*
- *Increase per-pupil SEEK funding.*
- *State support for preschool up to 200% of federal poverty level.*
- *Fully fund all-day kindergarten.*
- *Fully fund school district transportation costs.*
- *Increase funding for FRYSCs, ESS tutoring, textbooks/technology.*
- *Fully fund high quality educator professional development.*
- *Fund implementation of all state mandated school safety measures.*