



KEA OPPOSES HB 149 & SB 25

“EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACCOUNTS” SIPHON TAX DOLLARS OUT OF THE GENERAL FUND AND REDUCE AVAILABLE REVENUE

If passed, the “Education Opportunity Accounts” in HB149 and SB25 will award huge tax credits to rich Kentuckians and their private companies. Foregoing legitimate tax revenue for this purpose or any other decreases general fund revenue, which adversely impacts public education and every other government program.

According to the nonpartisan Legislative Research Commission, the impact of these proposals could cost the state over **\$205 million in lost revenue** after just 5 years. Even the most conservative legislator will acknowledge that Kentucky currently doesn’t have enough revenue to cover its legitimate expenditures; that being the case, why make that situation \$205 million worse? That revenue is desperately needed to fund public education and to support other necessary government expenditures. ***The Commonwealth must generate more revenue to improve the circumstances for every citizen instead of providing financial benefits for the wealthy and their corporations, particularly when those schemes are being championed by out-of-state special interests.***

KEA believes every student deserves an excellent public school education, regardless of their zip code or their financial circumstances. Public education funding in Kentucky is down over 16% since 2008 and continues to be a smaller portion of the Commonwealth’s overall budget each year.

Here’s what school vouchers really do:

- **Reduce general fund revenue**, which means **less money** for the state portion of SEEK funding, which is critical to all students.
- **Make public schools prioritize or eliminate critical student support functions, forcing choices among school safety, textbooks/technology, special education, transportation, and other essential programs.** We cannot afford to reduce state revenues when the needs for adequate education support and pension funding are so critical!
- **Reduce student enrollment in public schools.** Reduced enrollment creates uncertainty in district budgeting, leading to less funding for the classrooms and educational staff for children. Fixed costs remain with less revenue to meet them.
- **Benefit urban private schools at the expense of rural public schools.** Simply put, there are fewer private schools in Kentucky’s rural counties. Implementing any scheme that encourages enrollment in private schools at taxpayer expense by reducing available revenue will benefit urban private schools while rural schools and their students pay the real cost of that decision.
- **Give your public tax dollars to private schools with no oversight** on curriculum, student assessment or student and educator anti-discrimination practices.
- **Decrease tax obligations for the rich at the expense of the average citizen.**