

# KEA Legislative Budget Priorities 2024 Kentucky General Assembly

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS KENTUCKY'S BEST INVESTMENT



***KEA's budget priorities for the 2024 legislative session include:***

- *Meaningful mandatory pay increases for ALL public-school educators.*
- *Significant increase to SEEK.*
- *Funding for full day Kindergarten.*
- *Continue funding for all Kentucky public pension systems at an Actuarially Determined Contribution rate.*
- *Funding for whole child services including physical, mental, and emotional health.*
- *Increase resources for educator mental health services.*
- *Personnel investments- student loan forgiveness, mentorship programs, and paid student teaching.*

### **Increased Funding for Public Schools**

As Kentucky comes out of the global pandemic, revenue is at a historic level. Kentucky's public schools are the best investment for the Kentucky General Assembly and the past few years have highlighted just how important our public-school systems are to our local 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 the perfect opportunity for the General Assembly to act.

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## Public Education investments should include:

- *Increasing per-pupil and base SEEK funding.*
- *Fully funding the state's required contributions to all public pension systems.*
- *Funding the state's portion of health insurance coverage for teacher retirees under age 65.*
- *Provide full funding for district transportation costs.*
- *Minimum starting salary of \$50,000 for new teachers.*
- *Guarantee a living wage of at least \$17.50 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 universal pre-school.*
- *Paid student teaching.*
- *Funding for mentoring support for all new educators.*
- *Continuing investment in high-speed broadband.*
- *Funding for teacher scholarships and loan forgiveness programs.*
- *Hiring more school social workers and increasing salaries.*
- *Invest in a robust NBCT support program.*

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

Public schools are Kentucky's best investment. It's crucial that funds be invested in education to help create jobs, raise income, 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 can access the technology they need to receive a high-quality education.*



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## RESPONSIBLE INCREASE IN REVENUE

- *Close tax loopholes and end unnecessary corporate 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 childcare and universal pre-school*
- *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.*