



AMENDMENT 2 “SURVEY SAYS...”

Most school board members strongly opposed to public funds for private schools

There is overwhelming consensus among local school board members throughout Kentucky that public funds should not be directed to private schools, according to a recent KSBA survey. The survey, administered electronically by email, was open to members between Sept. 6 – 19, and reflects 174 responses (or 20% of school board members), with members from at least 105 districts represented.

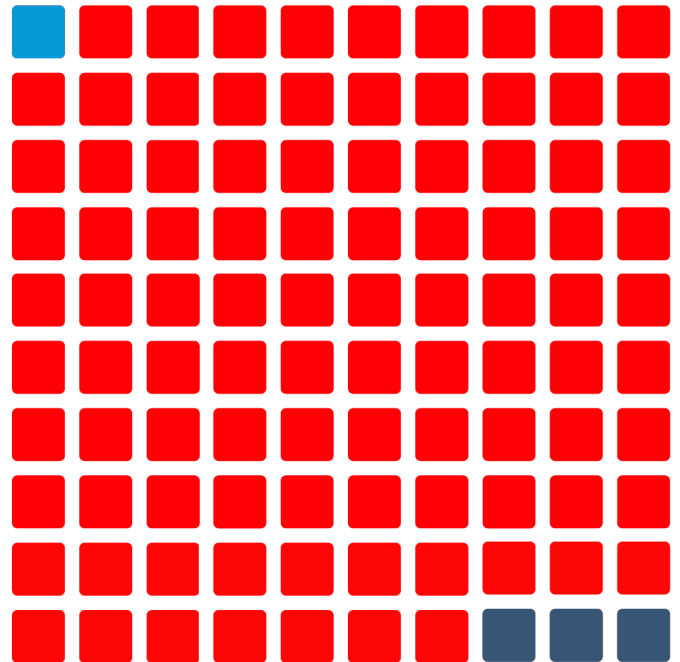
Of those who responded to the survey, 96% said they oppose allowing public tax dollars to be directed to private education providers, including 92% who “strongly oppose.” Only 3% of respondents said they support using public tax dollars for private education.

“KSBA has been opposed to directing public dollars to nonpublic schools for decades, so this really shouldn’t come as a shock to anyone who has followed us over the years,” said KSBA Executive Director Kerri Schelling. “It’s regularly been one of our annual legislative priorities, particularly during budget sessions, and is one of our guiding principles – all adopted by our board of directors and made public each year.”

Opposition to the amendment by school board members appears to cut cleanly through the political divide. Of the respondents, 51% identified as “Conservative and/or Republican,” 26% identified as “Progressive and/or Democrat,” 9% identified as “Independent,” and 14% preferred not to answer.

Schelling pointed to policy debates waging in states such as Texas, Tennessee, Ohio and others where there has been similar opposition to legislation introduced to divert public funds to private schools in the form of voucher-style programs.

“Strong public education policy has traditionally been a nonpartisan issue,” she said. “I think that’s why we’re seeing so much bipartisan opposition to this amendment.”



“Please select the answer that best describes your position on the proposed amendment to allow for public tax dollars to be directed to private education providers.”

These responses include 92% who “strongly oppose” the amendment.

OPPOSE 96%

SUPPORT 3%

UNSURE 1%