



20 LEGISLATIVE 21 AGENDA

Education will once again be a major focus of the regular session of the General Assembly. Each year, KSBA releases a list of priorities for improving the Commonwealth's system of common schools and strengthening districts. Here is our legislative agenda for advancing public education in 2021 and beyond.

1 Enacting a state budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 that adequately provides for public school students

We ask the General Assembly to:

- Increase funding allocated through Base SEEK to restore equity across communities.
- Prioritize funding the Learning & Results Services (LARS) programs that directly serve students such as; family resource and youth service centers (FRYSCs), instructional resources, state agency children, gifted and talented and extended school services (ESS).
- Continue the funding to implement the School Safety and Resiliency Act.
- Continue to equalize local nickel taxes for facility improvements.
- Increase the SEEK add-on rate for exceptional children because more children are presenting with delays caused by neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).
- Support the HANDS program and services for students in foster care provided by the Department for Community Based Services.
- Continue to make the full actuarially determined contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and the full amount needed for school employee health insurance.

2 Enhancing legal liability protections for school boards, districts and employees

Every dollar spent in a courtroom is a dollar not spent educating students in a classroom. We ask the General Assembly to expand the legal liability protections already afforded by state law to school boards, individual board members, districts and employees.

3 Balancing SBDM and local school board accountability

Our common schools belong to us all. We must improve the balance in school-based decision making council (SBDM) and board decision-making roles to advance student success and accountability. We ask the General Assembly to allow superintendents to select principals, only after SBDM consultation.

4 Fostering public support of students through support for local decision-making

Public schools depend on public support, as recognized by state policy in KRS 158.645. To enhance support and engagement in each community, we ask the General Assembly to continue to protect the role of local decision-making and accountable leadership in each unique district by the local school board.

5 Adopting tax reforms to increase general fund revenue and diversify local taxes

Student support statewide requires investment from Frankfort. We ask the General Assembly to:

- Maintain a moratorium on any new tax expenditures (credits/deductions/exemptions) and sunset existing expenditures as recommended by the General Assembly's 2018 Task Force on Tax Expenditures.
- Increase state revenue in a reasonable manner that will naturally track the economy.
- Diversify and sunset tax expenditures that locally elected school boards may levy, in line with the goals of tax reform efforts (i.e.: fairness, adequacy, competitiveness, consumption-based taxation, etc.).