

2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR A BIG BOLD FUTURE



The Prichard Committee has adopted the following legislative priorities to advance Kentucky's Big Bold Future with investments that build on our momentum and strengthen the economy through education—creating a larger life for all Kentuckians. To build Kentucky's Big Bold Future, we support investments that strengthen learning from early childhood through college.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

We support a coordinated and unified approach to early childhood policy that aligns existing efforts, incorporates stakeholder input, and advances outcomes for children and families statewide, including legislation and funding for affordable, high-quality preschool and child care so every child starts kindergarten ready and families can work and thrive such as:

■ Expand Access & Building Local Capacity

Fund the Kentucky Chamber's Foundation for Action recommendations, including a Certified Child Care Community designation and local planning tools that help communities map needs, attract providers, and stabilize small-business child care.

■ Strengthen Early Literacy & Numeracy Foundations (\$51M)

Provide professional learning for early educators in child care and preschool settings to extend Read to Succeed and Numeracy Counts into early learning.

■ Expand HANDS Home Visiting (\$12M)

- Add \$12 million—supplementing existing tobacco-settlement funds—to expand Kentucky's voluntary home-visiting program for families with children under age three.



K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We support legislation and funding for strong teaching, core skill mastery, and diplomas that ensure students graduate ready for what's next, including:

■ Guaranteed Access to Algebra I by 8th Grade through Automatic Enrollment (\$2M)

Strengthen HB 190 (2025) by establishing automatic enrollment so all 5th–6th grade students scoring Proficient or Distinguished in math are placed into Algebra I by 7th or 8th grade, with an opt-out option.

■ Elevate Durable Skills as a Statewide K–12 Priority

Kentucky must make durable skills development a core K–12 priority by integrating these competencies into daily instruction, advising, and school–employer partnerships.

■ Fully Fund Student Transportation (\$89M)

Provide full funding so districts can direct more resources to high-quality teaching, learning, and student interventions.



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

We support legislation and funding for affordable, high-quality credentials that connect education to good jobs and long-term growth, including:

■ Dual Credit Expansion (\$66.3M)

Double state investment in the Dual Credit Scholarship and Work Ready Scholarship programs to expand access for high school students, particularly in rural and under-resourced districts.

■ Support KCTCS's Funding Request

Support the Kentucky Community and Technical College System's budget request to strengthen core operations, expand capacity in high-demand programs, and improve student enrollment, retention, and completion.

