

# KENTUCKY P-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE BUDGET PROPOSED IN HOUSE BILL 500 AS RELEASED ON JANUARY 27, 2026, AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

## GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500	FY 2028 HB 500	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Base SEEK	\$2,023	\$2,013	\$1,954	-\$10	-\$59
SEEK Transportation	\$399	\$359	\$359	-\$40	\$0
Tier I Component	\$224	\$246	\$228	\$23	-\$18
Health Insurance:	\$1,077	\$1,092	\$1,147	\$15	\$55
Teachers' Retirement System Employer Match	\$468	\$529	\$541	\$62	\$12
Facilities	\$232	\$296	\$270	\$64	-\$26
Career and Technical Education	\$127	\$127	\$127	\$0	\$0
Preschool Program	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$0	\$0
Family Resource and Youth Services Centers	\$49	\$49	\$49	\$0	\$0
Extended School Services	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$0	\$0
State Schools (KSB and KSD)	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$0
School Resource Officers	\$18	\$0	\$0	-\$18	\$0
Read to Achieve	\$16	\$16	\$16	\$0	\$0
Center for School Safety	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$0	\$0
State Agency Children	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$0	\$0
Read to Succeed	\$11	\$11	\$11	\$0	\$0
Gifted and Talented Program	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$0	\$0
Vocational Transportation	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$0	\$0
School-Based Mental Health Services Providers	\$7	\$0	\$0	-\$7	\$0
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each)	\$49	\$30	\$30	-\$19	\$0
Other Department of Education	\$87	\$129	\$129	\$43	\$0
<b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$4,960</b>	<b>\$5,072</b>	<b>\$5,035</b>	<b>\$112</b>	<b>-\$37</b>

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500	FY 2028 HB 500	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Teachers Retirement System	\$1,037	\$1,166	\$1,258	\$129	\$92
School Facilities Construction Fund	\$127	\$114	\$109	-\$13	-\$6
FRYSC (CFHS Line Item)	\$3.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$3.95	\$0.00
Craft Academy	\$5.44	\$5.44	\$5.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gatton Academy	\$5.44	\$5.44	\$5.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Model Lab School	\$4.57	\$4.39	\$4.39	-\$0.18	\$0.00
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1.32	\$1.27	\$1.23	-\$0.05	-\$0.04

### Algebra 1 Enrollment Note

The Prichard Committee recommends annual investments of \$2 million to support 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. The current House Bill 500 does not include that investment in student opportunities for advanced coursework..

### Transportation Funding Note

The Prichard Committee recommends full funding of transportation, calling for an added investment of \$89 million per year. The current House Bill 500 reduces state transportation dollars by \$40 million.

### SEEK Per Pupil Base Guarantee Note

The current House Bill 500 provides a \$4,586 guarantee in FY 2027 and FY 2028, the same amount per pupil as FY 2026. The guarantee is paid by a combination of state and local dollars. The state share will decline by \$10 million the first year and by an additional \$59 million the second year. The local share will grow in proportion to rising property tax assessments.

### SEEK Kindergarten Funding Note

The current House Bill 500 calls for kindergarten pupils to continue to receive full-day SEEK funding.

### Tier 1 Note

The FY 2025 and FY 2026 budget moved Tier 1 maximum equalization up to 17.5% of each district’s calculated SEEK base. Tier 1 has a statutory minimum of 15%, but budget language overrode that limit. The current House Bill 500 continues the higher maximum.

**DETAIL FOR DEPARTMENT LINE ITEMS SMALLER THAN \$6 MILLION**

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500	FY 2028 HB 500	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Advanced Placement/first-come, first-served	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$0
Advanced Placement and IB/free or reduced meal eligibility	\$1,000,000	\$960,000	\$930,000	-\$40,000	-\$30,000
Mathematics Achievement Fund	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Numeracy Counts</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Star Academy	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	-\$5,000,000	\$0
Educators Employment Liability Insurance Program	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	-\$5,000,000	\$0
Salary Supplements for Nationally Certified Teachers	\$4,655,500	\$4,655,500	\$4,655,500	\$0	\$0
School Food Services	\$3,584,000	\$0	\$0	-\$3,584,000	\$0
Certified Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists:	\$2,312,000	\$2,312,000	\$2,312,000	\$0	\$0
Save the Children	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
AdvanceKentucky	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0
Community Education Program	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$0
Jobs for America's Graduates	\$1,675,500	\$1,675,500	\$1,675,500	\$0	\$0
We Lead CS	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Local School District Life Insurance	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$0
Statewide Reading Research Center	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0
Academic Content Standards Review	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,200,000	\$0
Statewide Assessment Costs	\$1,093,300	\$0	\$0	-\$1,093,300	\$0
Math Nation	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Debt Service (Learning and Results Services)	\$907,000	\$0	\$0	-\$907,000	\$0
Teach for America	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps	\$654,500	\$0	\$0	-\$654,500	\$0
Classification of Primary and Secondary School Buildings	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$500,000	\$0
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Visually Impaired Preschool Services Program	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Blind/Deaf Residential Travel Program	\$492,300	\$0	\$0	-\$492,300	\$0
SEEK Application	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	-\$250,000	\$0
Debt Service (Operations and Support)	\$166,000	\$0	\$0	-\$166,000	\$0
Hearing and Speech Center	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
Heuser Hearing and Language Academy	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each)</b>	<b>\$48,850,100</b>	<b>\$29,963,000</b>	<b>\$29,933,000</b>	<b>-\$18,887,100</b>	<b>-\$30,000</b>

**Numeracy Counts Note**

The Prichard Committee actively supports the Numeracy Counts investment in quality mathematics instruction. Kentucky has invested \$5 million in each of the last two fiscal years under 2024's House Bill 162, rather than the main House Bill 6 budget legislation. The current House Bill 500 does not include Numeracy Counts funding.

**Debt Service Note**

The current House Bill 500 includes no funding for debt service in the line items for the Department of Education. The Prichard Committee will seek further information on whether debt service costs are addressed in some other way.