



February 12, 2026

Sen. Aaron Reed
702 Capital Avenue
Annex Room 209B
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Senator Reed,

On behalf of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, I write to respectfully express our opposition to SB 152.

For more than four decades, the Prichard Committee has championed efforts to strengthen Kentucky's public education system by advancing high standards, shared accountability, and meaningful family and community engagement. These values were codified in the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA), which created School-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) councils to ensure that principals, parents, and teachers work together in a shared governance structure. This model was designed to keep decision-making closest to students and classrooms.

SB 152 would dismantle this model by removing core SBDM authorities and centralizing decision-making with principals and district administrators. Under the bill, decisions related to staffing levels, professional development planning, curriculum-related policies, budgeting priorities, and even principal selection would shift away from elected councils. The proposed advisory councils that replace SBDMs would serve only in a consultative capacity, eliminating the meaningful decision-making role that families and educators currently hold. Further, SB 152 replaces SBDMs not just at low performing schools or at schools with poor functioning school councils, it also replaces SBDMs at high performing schools where these councils work well and contribute positively to the schools results.

This represents a significant departure. By moving from school-level distributed leadership to a principal-centered model, SB 152 distances decision-making from the students, families, and educators most directly affected. This shift weakens local control rather than strengthening it.

When families and educators work together, schools see stronger implementation, greater transparency, deeper trust, and more sustainable improvement. Removing this shared responsibility risks increasing conflict, reducing buy-in, and eroding the collaborative culture that effective schools require. At a time when public trust in institutions is fragile, eliminating a respected and participatory governance structure will only deepen the disconnect between communities and decision-makers.



We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with policymakers on targeted reforms that strengthen SBDM councils—through improved training, clearer expectations, and enhanced accountability—without dismantling the foundational structure that has served Kentucky’s schools and communities for more than 30 years.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Brigitte Blom
President and CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence