

KENTUCKY P-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE HB 500 SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE APPROVED MARCH 18 AND AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LINE ITEMS | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Base SEEK	\$2,023	\$2,041	\$2,084	\$18	\$43
SEEK Transportation	\$399	\$399	\$399	\$0	\$0
Tier I Component	\$224	\$248	\$237	\$24	-\$12
Health Insurance:	\$1,077	\$1,077	\$1,278	\$0	\$201
Teachers' Retirement System Employer Match	\$468	\$529	\$541	\$62	\$12
Facilities	\$232	\$299	\$273	\$67	-\$26
Career and Technical Education	\$127	\$127	\$142	\$0	\$15
Preschool Program	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$0	\$0
Family Resource and Youth Services Centers	\$49	\$49	\$49	\$0	\$0
Extended School Services *	\$24	\$24	\$0	\$0	-\$24
State Schools (KSB and KSD)	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$0
School Resource Officers	\$18	\$23	\$23	\$5	\$0
Read to Achieve *	\$16	\$16	\$0	\$0	-\$16
Center for School Safety	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$0	\$0
State Agency Children	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$0	\$0
Read to Succeed *	\$11	\$11	\$0	\$0	-\$11
Gifted and Talented Program *	\$10	\$10	\$0	\$0	-\$10
Vocational Transportation	\$7.8	\$7.8	\$7.8	\$0.0	\$0.0
School-Based Mental Health Services Providers	\$7.4	\$7.4	\$7.4	\$0.0	\$0.0
Schools of Innovation Pilot Project	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$7.5	\$0.0	\$7.5
Contingent Appropriation *	\$0	\$0	\$80	\$0	+\$80
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each) *	\$49	\$37	\$18	-\$12	-\$19
Other Department of Education	\$87	\$99	\$99	\$12	\$0
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	\$4,960	\$5,136	\$5,377	\$176	\$241

* See the Contingent Appropriation/Targeted Programs note below for further information on the FY 2028 changes marked with an asterisk.

Contingent Appropriation/Targeted Programs Note

The Senate Committee Substitute provides FY 2027 funding for eighteen targeted learning programs, adding up to \$80 million. For FY 2028, the Senate Committee Substitute does not offer line item funding for those programs.

Instead, it specifies that “an amount equal to that program’s fiscal year 2026-2027 appropriation is conditionally appropriated to the Learning and Results Services at large in fiscal year 5 2027-2028, totaling \$79,612,900 in General Fund.” It specifies that the Department of Education is to develop a formula related to student population and use that to allocate the money to local school districts “to be expended on any combination of programs listed at the discretion of each local school district.”

The eighteen affected programs are shown in orange in our tables and here’s a list showing all 18 programs included in the \$79,612,900 amount to be distributed to districts by the new formula:

- \$23,916,300 for Extended School Services
- \$15,936,600 for Read to Achieve
- \$11,000,000 for Read to Succeed/Priority
- \$10,000,000 for Gifted and Talented Program
- \$5,019,000 for Mathematics Achievement Fund
- \$2,000,000 for Save the Children
- \$1,900,000 for AdvanceKentucky
- \$1,850,000 for Community Education Program
- \$1,000,000 for Jobs for America’s Graduates
- \$1,500,000 for We Lead CS
- \$1,391,000 for Local School District Life Insurance
- \$1,200,000 for Statewide Reading Research Center
- \$1,000,000 for Math Nation
- \$700,000 for Teach for America
- \$500,000 for Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
- \$500,000 for Visually Impaired Preschool Services Program
- \$100,000 for Hearing and Speech Center
- \$100,000 for Heuser Hearing and Language Academy
- \$79,612,900 for Total (Matches Page 56, Line 6 total)

Numeracy Counts Note

The Prichard Committee actively supports line-item funding for Kentucky’s Numeracy Counts investment in quality mathematics instruction. For FY 2025 and FY 2026, that program has received \$5 million per year under 2024’s House Bill 162, rather than the main House Bill 6 budget legislation. The Senate Committee Substitute does not include Numeracy Counts funding. The Prichard Committee urges continued line-item funding for Numeracy Counts in both years of the new budget.

Read to Succeed Note

The Prichard Committee also backs line-item funding for Read to Succeed, Kentucky's investment improve literacy instruction. For FY 2025 and FY 2026, Read to Succeed has received \$11 million per year from the General fund. The Senate Committee Substitute continues that funding for one year, but then moves those dollars into the new contingent appropriation described above, allowing districts to move those dollars to other needs. The Prichard Committee considers Read to Succeed a wise state-level commitment and urges continued line-item funding for that program.

Transportation Funding Note

The Prichard Committee recommends full funding of transportation, so that districts do not have to divert resources from classrooms in order to cover bus costs. Based on the most recent calculations by the Kentucky Department of Education, that will require \$492 million total, for an added investment of \$93 million per year above FY 2026 funding. The Senate Committee Substitute provides \$399 million, matching the FY 2026 appropriation but not providing an increase above that past appropriation.

SEEK Per Pupil Base Guarantee Note

The Senate Committee Substitute provides a base guarantee of \$4,626 in FY 2027 and \$4,774 in FY 2028, an increase over the \$4,586 FY 2026 guarantee. The guarantee is paid by a combination of state and local dollars. The state share will increase each year, and the local share will grow in proportion to rising property tax assessments.

SEEK Kindergarten Funding Note

The Senate Committee Substitute 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 Senate Committee Substitute continues the higher maximum.

Algebra 1 Enrollment Note

The Prichard Committee recommends annual investments of \$2 million to support automatic enrollment so all 5th and 6th grade students scoring proficient or distinguished in math are placed into Algebra I by 8th grade, with an opt-out option. The Senate Committee Substitute does not include that investment in student opportunities for advanced coursework.

FRYSC Note

The Senate Committee Substitute does not have a separate line item for FRYSC funding that flows through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Instead, it shows one General fund appropriation each year for Family Resource and Youth Services AND Serve Kentucky. The combined version shows \$26.6 million for FY 2027 and 26.7 for FY 2028, in line with \$26.6 million in the FY 2026 enacted budget. Most of those dollars, though not all, will go for FRYSCs and probably provide resources equivalent to what has been available this year.

Debt Service Note

The Senate Committee Substitute 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.

DETAIL FOR DEPARTMENT LINE ITEMS SMALLER THAN \$6 MILLION

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Mathematics Achievement Fund *	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$0	\$0	-\$5,019,000
Star Academy	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-\$4,000,000	\$0
Educators Employment Liability Insurance Program	\$5,000,000	\$4,800,000	\$4,650,000	-\$200,000	-\$150,000
Salary Supplements for Nationally Certified Teachers	\$4,655,500	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	-\$655,500	\$0
School Food Services	\$3,584,000	\$0	\$0	-\$3,584,000	\$0
Advanced Placement/first-come, first-served	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$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	\$0	\$0	-\$2,000,000
AdvanceKentucky *	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,900,000
Community Education Program *	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,850,000
Jobs for America's Graduates *	\$1,675,500	\$1,000,000	\$0	-\$675,500	-\$1,000,000
We Lead CS *	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,500,000
Local School District Life Insurance *	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,391,000
Statewide Reading Research Center *	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,200,000
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
Advanced Placement and IB/free or reduced meal eligibility	\$1,000,000	\$960,000	\$930,000	-\$40,000	-\$30,000
Math Nation *	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,000,000
Debt Service (Learning and Results Services)	\$907,000	\$0	\$0	-\$907,000	\$0
Teach for America *	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	-\$700,000
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	\$0	\$0	-\$500,000
Visually Impaired Preschool Services Program *	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$500,000
Blind/Deaf Residential Travel Program	\$492,300	\$472,600	\$457,800	-\$19,700	-\$14,800
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	\$0	\$0	-\$100,000
Heuser Hearing and Language Academy *	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	-\$100,000
Numeracy Counts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Principal Leadership Development Practicum:	\$0	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$0
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each) *	\$48,850,100	\$37,154,600	\$18,199,800	-\$11,695,500	-\$18,954,800

* See the Contingent Appropriation/Targeted Programs note above for further information on the FY 2028 changes marked with an asterisk.

OTHER LINE ITEM APPROPRIATIONS | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF GENERAL FUND DOLLARS

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 SCS	FY 2028 HB 500 SCS	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Teachers Retirement System	\$1,037	\$1,225	\$1,278	\$188	\$52
School Facilities Construction Fund	\$127	\$105	\$107	-\$22	\$2
FRYSC (CFHS Line Item)	\$4.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	-\$4.0	\$0.0
Craft Academy	\$5.4	\$6.0	\$6.5	\$0.5	\$0.5
Gatton Academy	\$5.4	\$6.0	\$6.5	\$0.5	\$0.5
Votruba Young Scholars Academy	\$0.0	\$1.8	\$3.6	\$1.8	\$1.8
Model Lab School	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$0.0	\$0.0
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$0.0	\$0.0