

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR A BIG BOLD FUTURE



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell
for a Big Bold Future

Kentucky has made impressive progress in education over the last generation. Unfortunately, as shown in our Big Bold Future Annual Rankings Report, we have hit a plateau and are moving backward in some key areas – from preschool to postsecondary – with persistent gaps for those historically underserved. The Prichard Committee has adopted the following legislative priorities which will help reverse the decline in education outcomes and put Kentucky on a path to realize a Big Bold Future where every Kentuckian can thrive, contribute to, and benefit from our shared progress as a state.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We support legislation and budget allocations that increase access and quality in early childhood programs. Policies enacted should:

- Increase per-child funding and reimbursement rates to support preschool and childcare.
- Incentivize local partnerships between public preschool and private childcare.
- Increase eligibility for child care assistance and public preschool to at least 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Maintain and expand HANDS, Kentucky's evidence-based home visiting program to support families with children under age 3.

Kentucky Rankings Among 50 States

Babies with healthy birth weight



Children above 200% of poverty



Preschool participation (Ages 3-4)



Big Bold Ask Increase over FY 2022:

- \$60 Million for FY 2023
- \$120 Million for FY 2024

K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We support funding and legislation that will measurably improve school and student outcomes in public schools. Policies enacted should:

- Fully fund school transportation & all-day kindergarten.
- Support recommendations of the SEEK task force.
- Create and allocate funding for the Fund for Teaching Excellence that includes:
 - Teacher mentorship
 - Expanded coaching to increase teacher quality
 - Teacher scholarships for areas like dual-credit certification
- Improve early literacy and math outcomes.

Kentucky Rankings Among 50 States

4th grade reading proficiency



8th grade math proficiency



High school graduation



Big Bold Ask Increase over FY 2022:

- \$42 Million for FY 2023
- \$83 Million for FY 2024

HIGHER EDUCATION

We support funding and legislation that improves access, affordability, and quality in postsecondary education, resulting in higher postsecondary attainment. Policies enacted should:

- Encourage affordability for all students.
- Provide high-quality dual credit options for high school students.
- Support Performance-Based Funding for Kentucky's public universities and community and technical colleges.
- Expand need-based tuition support.

Kentucky Rankings Among 50 States

Postsecondary enrollment (18-24)



Graduation from 2-year institutions



Graduation from 4-year institutions



Big Bold Ask Increase over FY 2022:

- \$53 Million for FY 2023
- \$105 Million for FY 2024

WHAT IS THE BIG BOLD ASK?

\$1 billion in additional education investments by 2026.

To deliver the promise of educational excellence for every Kentuckian, the Commonwealth must reverse years of budget cuts. Since the 2008 recession, state investments have declined 33% in higher education; 12% in our K-12 per-pupil funding; and have been inadequate to ensure high-quality early learning for our youngest children.

These declines threaten to reverse the progress Kentucky has made in student success and national rankings in the last generation. To address this, we are proposing to increase state investment in education at all levels by 2026.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS

\$251 million to provide child care assistance to 23,000 more young children with family incomes below 200% of poverty (FY 2022 adds \$12 million)

\$80 million to provide preschool to 10,000 additional 4-year-olds with family incomes below 200% of poverty

Excellence

Funding that allow high-quality programs meeting or exceeding Level 3 requirements under Kentucky's All STARS rating system

Equity

Reduced income barriers to participation in high-quality programs that richly support the learning development of young children

K-12 INVESTMENTS

\$140 million to fund all-day kindergarten (FY 2022 adds \$140 million)

\$162 million to fund school transportation fully

\$58 million to create a Fund for Teaching Excellence

Excellence

Deeper support for educators
and
Local funds freed up to reach Kentucky's high standards, including steps like expanded access to counselors, expert reading teachers, art teachers, and collaboration time

Equity

Reduced funding gaps between districts with more and less property wealth
and
Implementation of practices that raise results for all learners and especially for historically underserved student groups

HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

\$311 million to implement full Performance-Based Funding for Kentucky's public universities and community and technical colleges (FY 2022 adds \$47 million)

\$30 million to expand needs-based aid, offering 18,000 more Commonwealth Access Program (CAP) grants to low-income students (FY 2022 adds \$13 million)

Excellence

Sustained progress toward Kentucky's 60% attainment goal by 2030

Equity

Strong institutions across the state *and* Progress toward attainment goals for historically underserved groups
and
Enhanced access to higher education for students with financial need

NEW INVESTMENTS FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Figures in Millions

	FY 2023	FY 2024
Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)	\$45	\$90
Preschool	\$15	\$30
Kindergarten	\$0	\$0
SEEK Transportation	\$30	\$61
Fund for Teaching Excellence	\$11	\$22
Public 4-Year and 2-Year Institutions	\$49	\$99
College Access Program (CAP)	\$3	\$6
Total New General Fund Investment	\$154	\$308

CAN WE AFFORD IT? YES.

Building up to 2026

Numbers in millions

