

KENTUCKY P-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATION OF JANUARY 7, 2026, AVAILABLE AT OSBD.KY.GOV

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Base SEEK	\$2,023	\$2,102	\$2,121	\$79	\$19
SEEK Transportation	\$399	\$399	\$399	\$0	\$0
Tier I Component	\$224	\$252	\$239	\$28	-\$13
Teachers' Retirement System Employer Match	\$468	\$529	\$541	\$62	\$12
Health Insurance:	\$1,077	\$1,024	\$1,246	-\$53	\$221
Facilities	\$232	\$299	\$273	\$67	-\$26
Career and Technical Education	\$127	\$130	\$131	\$3	\$1
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	\$21	\$22	\$2	\$1
School Resource Officers	\$18	\$18	\$18	\$0	\$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
Star Academy	\$5	\$5	\$10	\$0	\$5
School-Based Mental Health Services Providers	\$7	\$0	\$0	-\$7	\$0
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each)	\$44	\$39	\$39	-\$5	\$0
Other Department of Education	\$87	\$253	\$257	\$166	\$4
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	\$4,960	\$5,300	\$5,524	\$340	\$224

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	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	\$108	-\$21	\$3
Craft Academy	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$0	\$0
Gatton Academy	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$0	\$0
Model Lab School	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$0	\$0
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$0	\$0

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. That investment is not included in the Governor’s proposal.

Transportation Funding Note

The Prichard Committee recommends full funding of transportation, at an estimated added cost of \$89 million per year. That investment is not included in the Governor’s proposal.

SEEK Per Pupil Base Guarantee Note

The Governor’s proposal calls for a \$4,701 guarantee in FY 2027 and a \$4,818 guarantee in FY 2028, an increase over the \$4,586 guarantee for FY 2026.

SEEK Kindergarten Funding Note

The Governor’s proposal 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 Governor’s proposal does not explicitly call for continuing the higher maximum, but may include the dollars needed to keep it in place

Staff Raise Note

The Governor’s proposal calls for 2.5% raises for school district employees in each fiscal year, with a reported total cost of \$159 million. The \$340 million increase in the Department of Education budget appears to include those dollars, but does not show them as a line item amount. Instead, they are part of the \$166 million labeled above as “Other Department of Education” funding. (That amount is calculated by adding up all the line item appropriations in the Governor’s draft budget bill, and then subtracting that total from the total shown as the Department’s general fund appropriation.

DETAIL FOR DEPARTMENT LINE ITEMS SMALLER THAN \$6 MILLION

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	FY 2028 Governor	2026 to 2027 Change	Additional 2027 to 2028 Change
Advanced Placement/first-come, first-served	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$0	-\$2,600,000	\$0
Advanced Placement/ non free or reduced meal eligibility	\$0	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$0
Advanced Placement and IB/free or reduced meal eligibility	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Mathematics Achievement Fund	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$0	\$0
Numeracy Counts*		\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$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	\$3,584,000	\$3,584,000	\$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	\$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	\$0	\$0	-\$1,500,000	\$0
Vendor to provide online computer science courses		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$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	\$0	\$0	-\$1,000,000	\$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	\$654,500	\$654,500	\$0	\$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	\$492,300	\$492,300	\$0	\$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
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million Each)	\$43,850,100	\$38,733,800	\$38,733,800	-\$5,116,300	\$0

* Numeracy Counts received \$5 million in each of the last two fiscal years under 2024's House Bill 162. The FY 2026 zero entry above reflect appropriations in the main enacted 2024 executive branch budget, House Bill 6.