

# KENTUCKY P-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2026 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE HB 500 FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED APRIL 1 AND AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

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

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2026 Debt Service*	FY 2026 Adjusted (Enacted minus Debt Service)	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 Adjusted to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
<b>Base SEEK</b>	<b>\$2,023</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,023</b>	<b>\$2,043</b>	<b>\$2,099</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$56</b>
<b>SEEK Transportation*</b>	<b>\$399</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$399</b>	<b>\$399</b>	<b>\$399</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Tier I Component*</b>	<b>\$224</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$224</b>	<b>\$248</b>	<b>\$238</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>-\$11</b>
Health Insurance:	\$1,077	\$0	\$1,077	\$1,077	\$1,278	\$0	\$201
Teachers' Retirement System Employer Match	\$468	\$0	\$468	\$529	\$541	\$62	\$12
Facilities	\$232	\$0	\$232	\$299	\$274	\$67	-\$26
Career and Technical Education	\$127	\$0	\$127	\$127	\$127	\$0	\$0
Preschool Program	\$84	\$0	\$85	\$85	\$85	\$0	\$0
<b>Family Resource and Youth Services Centers*</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$49</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Extended School Services	\$24	\$0	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$0	\$0
State Schools (KSB and KSD)	\$20	\$0	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$0
School Resource Officers	\$18	\$0	\$18	\$12	\$12	-\$7	\$0
Read to Achieve	\$16	\$0	\$16	\$12	\$12	-\$4	\$0
Center for School Safety	\$15	\$0	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$0	\$0
State Agency Children	\$13	\$0	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$0	\$0
<b>Read to Succeed*</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Gifted and Talented Program	\$10	\$0	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$0	\$0
Vocational Transportation	\$8	\$0	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$0	\$0
School-Based Mental Health Services Providers	\$7	\$0	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$0	\$0
Smaller Line Items Total (Below \$6 Million)	\$49	\$1	\$48	\$37	\$37	-\$11	\$0
Other Department of Education	\$87	\$0	\$87	\$99	\$99	\$12	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,960</b>	<b>\$1</b>	<b>\$4,959</b>	<b>\$5,123</b>	<b>\$5,355</b>	<b>\$164</b>	<b>\$232</b>

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

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
Teachers Retirement System	\$1,037	\$1,225.3	\$1,277.6	188.1	52.3
School Facilities Construction Fund	\$127	\$105.0	\$107.2	105.0	2.2
<b>FRYSC (CFHS Line Item)*</b>	<b>\$4.0</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>
Craft Academy	\$5.4	\$6.0	\$6.5	6.0	0.5
Gatton Academy	\$5.4	\$6.0	\$6.5	6.0	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	4.6	\$0.0
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.3	1.3	\$0.0

**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 Free Conference Committee Report 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. The Free Conference Committee Report provides continuing Read to Succeed funding of \$11 million in each fiscal year.

**\*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 Free Conference Committee Report provides \$399 million, matching the FY 2026 appropriation but not providing an increase above that past appropriation.

**SEEK Per Pupil Base Guarantee Note**

The Free Conference Committee Report provides a base guarantee of \$4,626 in FY 2027 and \$5,792 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 Free Conference Committee Report 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 Free Conference Committee Report continues the higher maximum.

### **Algebra 1 Enrollment Note**

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

### **\*FRYSC Note**

The Free Conference Committee Report 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 Free Conference Committee Report does not include FY 2027 and FY 2028 line items for Department of Education debt service. It is not clear whether those debt service needs are still the Department's responsibility. To reflect the possibility that another state cabinet is now responsible for those expenses, the table above compares FY 2027 and FY 2028 appropriations to FY 2026 appropriations excluding debt service.

### **\*Advanced Placement/first-come, first-served**

The General Fund appropriation of \$2.6 million per year supported payment of Advanced Placement exam fees on a first-come, first-served basis. Those funds helped reduce cost barriers for students seeking access to Advanced Placement coursework and potential college credit beyond those already eligible for exam support through free or reduced-price meal status. The Free Conference Committee Report cuts that funding entirely for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

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

	FY 2026 HB 6	FY 2026 Debt Service	FY 2026 Adjusted (Enacted minus Debt Service)	FY 2027 HB 500 FCCR	FY 2028 HB 500 FCCR	Change from FY 2026 Adjusted to FY 2027	Additional Change from FY 2027 to FY 2028
Mathematics Achievement Fund	\$5,019,000	\$0	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$5,019,000	\$0	\$0
Star Academy	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-\$4,000,000	\$0
Educators Employment Liability Insurance Program	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$4,800,000	\$4,650,000	-\$200,000	-\$150,000
Salary Supplements for Nationally Certified Teachers	\$4,655,500	\$0	\$4,655,500	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	-\$655,500	\$0
School Food Services	\$3,584,000	\$0	\$3,584,000	\$0	\$0	-\$3,584,000	\$0
<b>Advanced Placement/first-come, first- served*</b>	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$0	-\$2,600,000	\$0
Certified Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists:	\$2,312,000	\$0	\$2,312,000	\$2,312,000	\$2,312,000	\$0	\$0
Save the Children	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
AdvanceKentucky	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0
Community Education Program	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$0
Jobs for America's Graduates	\$1,675,500	\$0	\$1,675,500	\$1,675,500	\$1,675,500	\$0	\$0
We Lead CS	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0
Local School District Life Insurance	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$0
Statewide Reading Research Center	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0
Academic Content Standards Review	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,200,000	\$0
Statewide Assessment Costs	\$1,093,300	\$0	\$1,093,300	\$0	\$0	-\$1,093,300	\$0
Advanced Placement and IB/free or reduced meal eligibility	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$960,000	\$930,000	-\$40,000	-\$30,000
Math Nation	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Debt Service (Learning and Results Services)	\$907,000	\$907,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Teach for America	\$700,000	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0
Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps	\$654,500	\$0	\$654,500	\$0	\$0	-\$654,500	\$0
Classification of Primary and Secondary School Buildings	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$500,000	\$0
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Visually Impaired Preschool Services	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Blind/Deaf Residential Travel Program	\$492,300	\$0	\$492,300	\$472,600	\$457,800	-\$19,700	-\$14,800
SEEK Application	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0	-\$250,000	\$0
Debt Service (Operations and Support)	\$166,000	\$166,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Hearing and Speech Center	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
Heuser Hearing and Language Academy	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Numeracy Counts</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Dataseam	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0
Principal Leadership Development Practicum:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$48,850,100</b>	<b>\$1,073,000</b>	<b>\$47,777,100</b>	<b>\$36,980,100</b>	<b>\$36,785,300</b>	<b>-\$10,797,000</b>	<b>-\$194,800</b>