KENTUCKY P-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

COMPARING THE FY 2024 ENACTED BUDGET TO THE HB 6 CONFERENCE REPORT RELEASED MARCH 27, 2024, AVAILABLE AT LEGISLATURE.KY.GOV

GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION | SHOWN IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

			FY 2026	2024 to 2025	Additional 2025
	Enacted	Conference	Conference	Change	to 2026 Change
SEEK BASE	\$2,044	\$1,933	\$2,023	-\$112	\$91
Transportation	\$274	\$359	\$399	\$85	\$40
Tier I	\$195	\$235	\$224	\$40	-\$11
Health Insurance	\$849	\$943	\$1,077	\$94	\$134
Teachers' Retirement System Employer Match	\$449	\$478	\$487	\$29	\$10
Facilities	\$219	\$262	\$232	\$43	-\$30
Career and Technical Education	\$127	\$127	\$127	\$0	\$0
Preschool	\$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)	\$19	\$20	\$20	\$1	\$0
School Resource Officers	\$0	\$17	\$18	\$17	\$2
Read to Achieve	\$16	\$16	\$16	\$0	\$0
Center for School Safety	\$13	\$15	\$15	\$2	\$0
State Agency Children	\$13	\$13	\$13	\$0	\$0
Read to Succeed (Early Learning Initiative)	\$11	\$11	\$11	\$0	\$0
Gifted and Talented	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$0	\$0
Vocational Transportation	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$0	\$0
School-Based Mental Health Services Providers	\$7	\$7	\$7	\$0	\$0
Mathematics Achievement Fund	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$0	\$0
Educators Employment Liability Insurance Program	\$0	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$0
Star Academy	\$0	\$0	\$5	\$0	\$5
Salary Supplements for Nationally Certified Teachers	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$0	\$0
ltems Smaller than \$4 Million	\$29	\$29	\$29	-\$1	\$1
Other Department of Education	\$78	\$65	\$67	-\$13	\$3
General Fund KDE Total	\$4,528	\$4,717	\$4,960	\$189	\$243

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Conference	FY 2026 Conference	2024 to 2025 Change	Additional 2025 to 2026 Change
Teachers' Retirement System	\$768	\$847	\$1,037	\$79	\$190
School Facilities Construction Commission	\$127	\$117	\$127	-\$10	\$9
FRYSC (CHFS Line Item)	\$23	\$4.0	\$4.0	-\$18.6	\$0.0
Gatton Academy	\$5.0	\$5.1	\$5.4	\$0.1	\$0.3
Craft Academy	\$5.0	\$5.1	\$5.4	\$0.1	\$0.3
Kentucky Center for Mathematics	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$0.0	\$0.0
Model Lab School	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$0.0	\$0.0

Preschool Note

The Conference version of HB 6 provides no increase to preschool funding. In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee calls for increasing Kentucky's investment in preschool by \$78 million per year by 2026, including raising eligibility to 200% of poverty and raising rates to support higher quality programs. The Conference version does not move toward meeting that goal.

SEEK Kindergarten Funding Note

The Conference version of HB 6 calls for kindergarten pupils to continue to receive full-day SEEK funding. In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee calls for Kentucky to invest \$140 million more per year by 2026 in kindergarten learning. The Conference version meets that full 2026 goal.

Transportation Funding Note

The Conference version of HB 6 calls for school transportation to receive \$359 million in FY 2025 and \$399 million in FY 2026. In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee called for the state to provide \$377 million in transportation funding by FY 2026. The Conference version meets that full 2026 goal. It is worth noting that the cost of school transportation has risen substantially: the Department of Education recently calculated \$484 million as the full cost for FY 2024. That means that the FY 2026 amount is an important improvement but not full funding of transportation, as pointed out by Jason Bailey of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

Teaching Quality Note

The Conference version of HB 6 provides \$11 million to continue the early learning initiative known as Read to Succeed and just under \$5 million for stipends for teachers who earn National Board Certification. Those elements add up to about \$16 million in added funding for teaching quality. In the Big Bold Ask, the Prichard Committee calls for increasing Kentucky investments in a Fund for Teaching Excellence to \$58 million by 2026. The Conference version meets part of that 2026 goal.

SEEK Per Pupil Funding Note

The Conference version of HB 6 calls for a \$4,326 base guarantee in FY 2025 and a \$4,586 base guarantee in FY 2026.

Tier 1 Note

Since 1990, the Tier 1 part of the SEEK formula has allowed districts that raises more than the base SEEK 30¢ tax revenue to receive state equalization funding of up to 15% of their total base guarantee amount if they collect added local revenue to qualify. The new budget moves that maximum up to 17.5%.

FRYSC Note

The Conference version of HB 6 explicitly calls for an increase of just under \$4 million in funding for Family Resource and Youth Service Centers sent directly to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, but does not spell out the total appropriation amount. The table above lists only the increase, but the intent may be to provide \$27 million: the historic \$23 million plus an additional \$4 million.

DETAIL FOR DEPARTMENT LINE ITEMS SMALLER THAN \$4 MILLION

DETAIL FOR DEPARTMENT LINE TIEMS SWALLER THAN \$4 MILLION							
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	2024 to	Additional 2025		
	Enacted	House Bill 6	House Bill 6	2025	to 2026		
		Conference	Conference	Change	Change		
Academic Content Standards Review	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0		
Advanced Placement Exams/ students on a first-come, first-served basis.	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	\$0	\$0		
Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Exams/ students eligible for free or reduced-price meals.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0		
AdvanceKentucky	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$0		
Blind/Deaf Residential Travel	\$492,300	\$492,300	\$492,300	\$0	\$0		
Collaborative Center for Literacy Development	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	-\$1,200,000	\$0		
Community Education	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$0		
Dataseam Initiative	\$3,500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$3,500,000	\$0		
Debt Service	\$0	\$83,000	\$166,000	\$83,000	\$83,000		
Debt Service 1	\$1,168,000	\$453,500	\$907,000	-\$714,500	\$453,500		
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	-\$2,500,000	\$0		
Education Wrap Around Pilot Program	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$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		
Jobs for America's Graduates	\$1,000,000	\$1,675,500	\$1,675,500	\$675,500	\$0		
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0		
Local School District Life Insurance	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$1,391,000	\$0	\$0		
Math Nation	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0		
Review of the Classification of Primary and Secondary School Buildings	\$600,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	-\$100,000	\$0		
Salary Supplements for 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		
School Food Services	\$3,827,000	\$3,584,000	\$3,584,000	-\$243,000	\$0		
SEEK Application	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0		
Statewide Assessment Costs	\$0	\$1,010,500	\$1,093,300	\$1,010,500	\$82,800		
Statewide Reading Research Center	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0		
Teach for America	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0		
U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Pilot Program Consultants	\$0	\$623,900	\$654,500	\$623,900	\$30,600		
Visually Impaired Preschool Services	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0		
We Lead CS	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0		
Items Smaller than \$4 Million	\$29,240,300	\$28,525,700	\$29,175,600	-\$714,600	\$649,900		