Mission
As the unified professional organization representing all education leaders, we draw upon the strength of our diversity to best serve the needs of children and our members by the continuous improvement of education through:

- Professional development of strong leaders
- Advocacy for welfare of learners and leaders
- Effective participation in shaping education policy
Preamble

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators remains committed to the vision of providing quality elementary and secondary education opportunities for the children of our state. Only with the ongoing leadership and resolve of the legislature can Kentucky live up to its commitment to educational excellence.

KASA urges the General Assembly to honor our state’s constitutional mandate and restore P-12 education as its highest funding and policymaking priority. If we are to maintain our documented educational improvement, Kentucky must keep pace with the efforts of the nation and the world in assuring our students have access to the highest quality educational opportunities available.

KASA commits to a partnership with the General Assembly, and with all those who would continue to make the education of Kentucky’s citizens their highest priority, in order to assure them a place in the world economy and the marketplace of ideas. To that end, we propose the following as our Legislative Program for the 2020 session of the Kentucky General Assembly:

Funding Issues

It is the constitutional duty of the General Assembly to provide an adequate and equitable system of funding for the public schools. This duty supersedes all other legislative functions. KASA believes that the following priorities must be addressed in order for the legislature to fulfill its obligations toward P-12 education in Kentucky:

Top Priority

- Commit all growth in state revenues to increasing the SEEK base, and restore SEEK and all other flexible focus funds (professional development, safe schools, textbooks, FR/YSCs, etc.) to levels that provide constitutionally adequate funding to support academic improvement for all Kentucky students.

Other Priorities

- Provide state funding that is adequate to support full-day kindergarten in every school district.
- Fund SEEK based on average daily membership (ADM), with no decrease in the per pupil amount.
- Fully fund the transportation formula.
- Increase the SEEK formula adjustment (add-on) for students in poverty.
- Provide targeted funding for implementation of school safety initiatives required by SB 1.
- Oppose the adoption of vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or other measures aimed at diverting public funds from public schools in order to subsidize student attendance at private schools.
- Oppose all unfunded mandates and cost-shifting to local districts.
Revenue Issues

In addition to the funding issues detailed above that are the responsibility of the General Assembly, state and local taxing authorities must be designed to generate adequate revenue. KASA supports the following:

Top Priority

- *Adopt additional comprehensive tax reform measures to provide for growth of state tax revenues that is sufficient to adequately fund elementary and secondary education.*

Other Priorities

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the SEEK funding formula to assess its current levels of adequacy and equity and make adjustments as necessary to achieve those goals.
- Require local school districts to increase their level of support for the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky (FSPK) to ten cents, not subject to recall, and equalize that amount with state funds.

Student, Curriculum, and Accountability Issues

In order for schools and school districts to provide the safest, most productive, and highest quality educational experience, and successfully meet the needs of all students, KASA proposes the General Assembly do the following:

Top Priority

- *Provide direct, ongoing funding for SB 1 initiatives that is sufficient to support all training requirements and to provide multi-tiered academic, counseling, mental health, and behavioral services for students, delivered by fully qualified providers, at a level that assures all students have access to appropriate services.*

Other Priorities

- Provide school personnel an expanded role in the FAIR Team process currently used to deal with cases of habitual truancy.
- Establish, expand, and fund a broader array of programmatic options (alternative programs, earlier access to technical programs, planned 5-year programs, etc.) for high school students to assure that the needs of all learners are met.
- Give schools a greater role in designing the programs and services that are provided to the state agency children (KECSAC) they serve.
- Increase the level of the awards to students for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to keep pace with tuition increases at public postsecondary institutions.
Professional and Personnel Issues

To continue tangible progress toward proficiency, Kentucky’s schools must attract and retain the highest quality teachers and school leaders possible. KASA supports the following actions for the recruitment and retention of effective school district staff:

Top Priority

- Preserve the Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) with no change in benefits or retirement conditions for current members, and maintain a defined benefit system for new hires with benefit levels sufficient to attract and retain teachers and administrators.

Other Priorities

- Adopt a comprehensive set of incentives and strategies to increase enrollment in teacher education programs.
- Provide greater flexibility to local districts in the employment of retirees, and in obtaining certification waivers and endorsements for experienced teachers, in order to staff critical shortage areas and other hard-to-fill positions.
- Expand the activities which qualify for EILA credit so that school administrators can obtain credit without leaving their building or district.

Governance and Management Issues

Effective and efficient governance and management of the operations and resources of local school districts contribute directly to the success of students. KASA proposes the following measures aimed at improving these functions:

Top Priority

- Oppose the adoption of vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or other measures aimed at diverting public funds from public schools in order to subsidize student attendance at private schools.

Other Priorities

- Adopt a legally binding code of ethics for local school board members.
- Restrict the ability to enroll students in home school during the school year if the student has pre-existing academic, behavioral, or truancy issues.
- Oppose any expansion in allowing the carrying of firearms in schools.