



October 3, 2025

Dear Members of the Kentucky General Assembly:

On behalf of the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS), representing 171 school superintendents across the Commonwealth, I write to express our strong support for the *Pre-K for All* initiative and to urge you to *make expanding voluntary preschool access a priority* in the 2026 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Kentucky's superintendents share your goal: to ensure that every child in our Commonwealth has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Expanding access to high-quality preschool is one of the most impactful steps we can take toward that goal.

There is wisdom in the old adage that *the floor determines the ceiling*. The better prepared our children are when they enter kindergarten, the more likely they are to thrive throughout their K-12 experience, graduating ready for college, career, and citizenship. High-quality preschool builds that foundation, improving academic outcomes, supporting social-emotional development, and reducing the need for costly interventions later on.

Kentucky has offered publicly funded preschool for more than 30 years, currently serving children with qualifying disabilities and those from families earning below 160% of the federal poverty line. Today, roughly 27%, or about 14,500 of Kentucky's 54,000 four-year-olds are served by public preschool. We can and must do better.

Research and experience from states such as Oklahoma, Alabama, Iowa, and Georgia show that children who attend preschool are more likely to be prepared for kindergarten, proficient in reading and math, graduate from high school, and pursue higher education. They are also less likely to be chronically absent, face disciplinary issues, or require special education services.

While superintendents strongly support expanding preschool access, we also know that success will depend on addressing several critical issues that vary from community to community. KASS intends to convene a work group to collaborate with the legislature and stakeholders on the following priorities:

- **Facility Needs:** Provide creative flexibility and dedicated funding to address facility space challenges, including support for innovative public-private partnerships.
- **Workforce Capacity:** Ensure a robust pipeline of qualified early childhood educators and support staff, with competitive compensation and professional supports.
- **Operational Sustainability:** Establish reliable, long-term funding streams to sustain expanded preschool programs and ensure equitable access across Kentucky.

Importantly, we believe this expansion should *follow a responsible, phased-in approach over time*, building capacity deliberately and strategically to *ensure that every four-year-old in Kentucky will ultimately have access to a voluntary, high-quality preschool experience*.

We cannot afford to let Kentucky's children fall behind. They are the future leaders, innovators, and workforce that will drive our state forward. With thoughtful planning, strategic investment, and a phased implementation plan, expanding preschool access is both achievable and essential.

KASS and our member superintendents stand ready to partner with you to design and implement a preschool expansion plan that addresses real-world challenges and delivers on the promise of better outcomes for every child.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Kentucky's students and families—and for your leadership in making *Pre-K for All* a reality.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Flynn", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

Dr. Jim Flynn

Executive Director

Kentucky Association of School Superintendents