



**Adequate funding for public education  
BRSC on Primary and Secondary Education**

*February 10, 2026*

# INTRODUCTIONS

- Adequate funding of SEEK and other programs
- Invitation to Drive-In Day | Feb 26, 2026

# Mr. Chris Brady

Superintendent, Marion County Schools

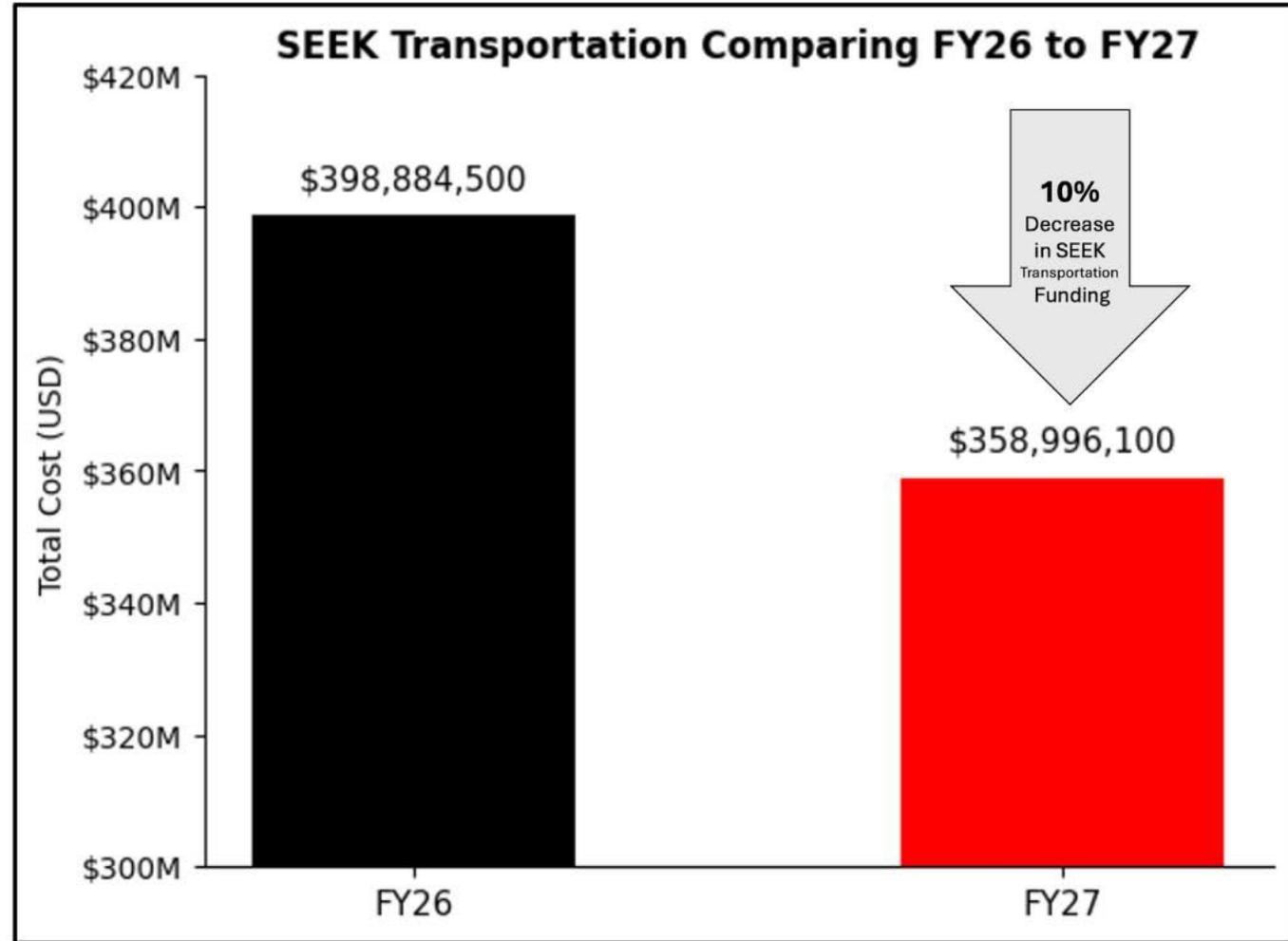
# Mr. John Siler

Superintendent, Whitley County Schools

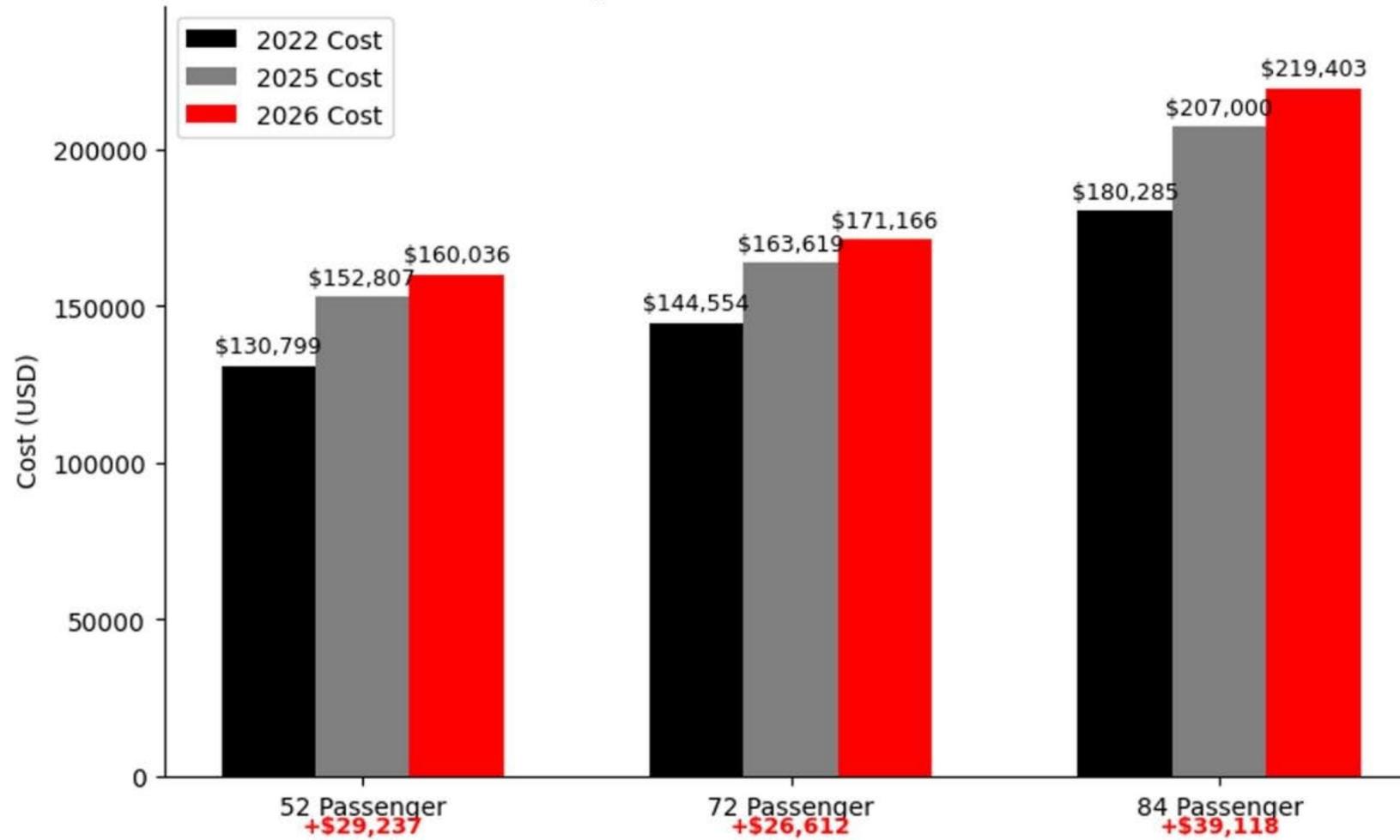
# SEEK Transportation Funding

It is proposed to be \$358,996,100 in both years of the budget, the same amount enacted for the 2024–25 fiscal year, and a significant decrease from the current SEEK Transportation funding of \$398,884,500.

Vocational Transportation is proposed to be the same amount, \$7.8M in each year of the budget, the same amount in each year of the current 2024–26 biennium.



# KY Cost Comparison of Buses for School Districts



# Dr. Katie Webb

Superintendent, Lawrence County Schools



# A 35 Year Partnership for Kentucky's Schools

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Building Fund Nickels and State Equalization

# Lawrence County

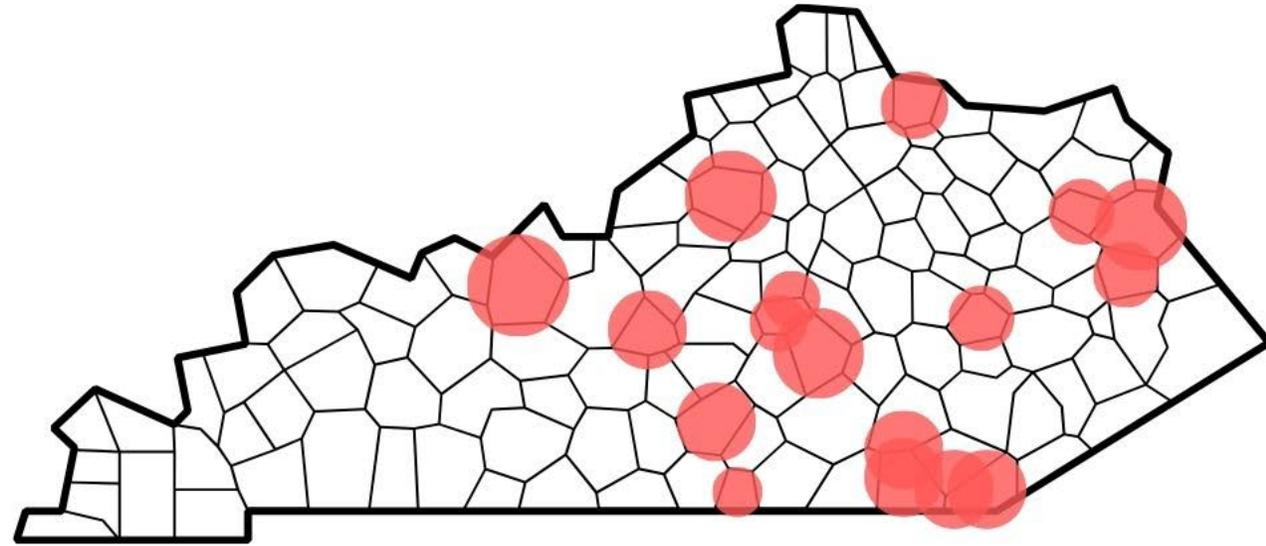
## Our Facility Needs

- 2 previously recalled nickel attempts
- 66 year old age of buildings -average
- Louisa West (preschool, Kindergarten, First Grade) 75 years old.
- Sits under 1 four lane and beside another.



# Needed Language for 17 Kentucky Districts

- HB 500 currently contains no language to equalize the nickels passed by 17 districts since January 2024.
- 17 districts—from Adair to Williamsburg—are now facing a barrier no other district has faced in 30 years--no equalized funding on recallable nickel.
- A recallable nickel is often the first step for additional state facility grants.



**The same procedures and support that helped every other district in the state are suddenly not there for kids in these counties.**

# A Few Words Mean A Lot

- Bonding Power for Our Kids In Lawrence County (just one example):
  - Without Recallable Nickel Equalization: ~\$14 Million
  - With Standard Equalization Partnership: ~\$25+ Million capacity.

# The Ask

- Restore the standard equalization language for these 17 districts to ensure that no child's education is limited by an arbitrary budget date.
- Impact on this budget (for all 17 districts in total):
  - \$2,970,213 (FY 2027)
  - \$2,850,067 (FY 2028)

# The Result

- Continue or create opportunities for kids to learn in modern facilities
- Equal opportunities for thousands of Kentucky students

# Dr. Jesse Bacon

Superintendent, Bullitt County Schools



Moving Forward

# SUSTAINING PROGRESS IN KENTUCKY SCHOOLS

*THE IMPACT OF FLAT SEEK FUNDING & TIER I  
STAGNATION*





# THE REALITY: PROGRESS + PRESSURE

*PROGRESS IS REAL — PRESSURE IS GROWING*



- **Kentucky is a national leader in post-pandemic academic recovery**
- **Education workforce stabilizing, but competition remains strong**
- **26% loss in purchasing power since 2008 (inflation-adjusted)**
- **Flat SEEK + rising costs = structural financial pressure**



# WHAT YOU HAVE MADE POSSIBLE

*HOW BCPS IS UTILIZING INCREASED INVESTMENTS*



- **Multiple teacher & staff raises**
- **Added steps to the salary scale to retain experienced educators**
- **\$1.2M College and Career labs in MS**
- **\$1.6M literacy curriculum investment**
- **\$1.29M math curriculum investment**
- **School Safety (Additional SROs, Counselors, enhanced security measures)**
- **Continued support for preschool despite funding gaps**

# THE RISK OF FLAT SEEK & TIER I

*WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT GROWTH IN RECURRING REVENUE?*



- **Harder to sustain competitive teacher raises**
- **Slows progress on improving compensation**
- **Increased pressure on programs and student services**
- **Local funds stretched to cover rising operational costs**
- **Tier I stagnation limits equitable, predictable funding**



# THE ASK: SUSTAIN WHAT'S WORKING

*INVESTMENTS THAT SUSTAIN PROGRESS*



- **Meaningful SEEK base increase in both years of the biennium**
- **Fully fund pupil transportation using prior-year data**
- **Increase Tier I Equalization to 20%**
- **Recurring costs require recurring revenue**
- **These investments sustain workforce stability and student success**



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THE SCHOOL LEADERS ASSOCIATION

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH**

Feb 26 | 11:30am-1:15pm | Room 125