

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION encouraging an atmosphere of civility and
2 respect on the part of all participants engaged in carrying out the critical functions of
3 Kentucky's system of elementary and secondary education.

4 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Constitution established a system of common schools
5 and designates the oversight of that system as one of the primary functions of the General
6 Assembly; and

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has declared in statute that it expects students in
8 Kentucky schools to exhibit courtesy, respect, and self-discipline; and

9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has declared through statute that it is expected
10 of those who enter school premises to refrain from speech or conduct that will disrupt or
11 interfere with normal school activities or undermine the good order and discipline of the
12 school; and

13 WHEREAS, the General Assembly consciously models respect and civility between
14 its members in both rule and practice; and

15 WHEREAS, events taking place during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic
16 have increased the level of anxiety and uneasiness among adults and children alike, and
17 have led to confrontational and unproductive encounters between participants in public
18 meetings and discussions; and

19 WHEREAS, it is the duty of all adults to model the behaviors they expect of
20 children; and

21 WHEREAS, the citizens of Kentucky place a high value on respect and civility in
22 their lives, and they understand that these characteristics are essential to any healthy state
23 or community; and

24 WHEREAS, the quality of life in our state and our communities is enhanced by
25 civil discourse and discussion in the conduct of the public business; and

26 WHEREAS, the educational enterprise often addresses important civil and sensitive
27 issues about which people feel passionately, at times leading to uncivil behavior; and

1 WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect can have a damaging effect
2 on these proceedings, on the quality of debate, and on the practice of democracy itself;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
5 ***Kentucky, the House of Representatives concurring therein:***

6 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly of Kentucky urges Kentucky's school leaders,
7 school board members, parents, teachers, school staff, students, and community members
8 to exercise the utmost civility and respect when engaging in public or private interactions
9 that are taking place as part of the operation of Kentucky's education system.

10 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall send a copy of this Resolution to every
11 school district in Kentucky with encouragement that it be read at a meeting of the board
12 of education.