

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the Legislative Research Commission
2 to establish the Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has created a system of public schools that
4 places a high priority on ensuring that all students achieve at high levels; and

5 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that many schools and districts in
6 the Commonwealth have unacceptable proficiency rates in reading, mathematics, science,
7 social studies, and writing; and

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that many schools and districts are
9 struggling with operational, managerial, and policy issues that are adversely impacting
10 student academic achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has the responsibility of ensuring that the
12 governance models currently utilized by the state and local school districts are not
13 impeding student achievement; and

14 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that school districts with an
15 enrollment greater than 75,000 students in elementary, middle, and high school face
16 particular operating and management challenges; and

17 WHEREAS, taxpayers and parents of students expect that local school boards will
18 ensure that any policies they adopt shall abide by federal and state laws, meet federal and
19 state requirements for finances and operations, and meet federal and state accountability
20 and assessment provisions for student learning, growth, and improvement; and

21 WHEREAS, revenues and expenditures of school districts should be aligned to
22 educational programming to maximize the preparedness of students to succeed in the
23 workforce or in the pursuit of higher education while minimizing per pupil cost; and

24 WHEREAS, the General Assembly wishes to assess the efficiency and
25 effectiveness of the operations, management, and policies of Kentucky school districts
26 with student enrollment greater than 75,000; and

27 WHEREAS, the General Assembly seeks expert opinions and research from

1 education-focused institutions such as the Education Commission of the States, the
2 Southern Regional Education Board, and other organizations that can provide relevant
3 and pertinent information that pertains to school governance structures and the
4 infrastructure and supports needed to positively impact student academic achievement;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

8 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission is hereby directed to establish
9 the Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force to:

- 10 (1) Review current district governance and administration models of Kentucky's school
11 districts with student enrollment greater than 75,000 and compare the governance
12 and operational structures to school districts in other states with similar size and
13 demographic composition;
- 14 (2) Review the functionality, duties, structure, independence, effectiveness, and
15 efficiency of local boards of education and the impact of board decisions on student
16 outcomes, in districts with a student enrollment of greater than 75,000;
- 17 (3) Review publications, reports, and analyses of school governance relating to district
18 size, the efficiency of districts, and the effects of size on student outcomes,
19 including but not limited to a report from the Office of Education Accountability on
20 school district governance that was approved in the office's 2024 research agenda,
21 and previous Kentucky Department of Education management reports;
- 22 (4) Hear testimony from entities with experience in research on and expertise in
23 education organizational structures, policies, and governance;
- 24 (5) Hear testimony from parents of former, current, and prospective students attending
25 schools in districts with enrollment greater than 75,000, and from parents that have
26 chosen not to enroll their students in school districts with enrollment greater than
27 75,000, on the strengths and weaknesses of the districts' academic offerings,

- 1 educational capabilities, school and district policies, and their decisions to enroll or
2 not enroll their students in schools within such districts;
- 3 (6) Review relevant past performance audits, correction plans, and other analyses of
4 school districts with enrollment greater than 75,000;
- 5 (7) Review how other states have implemented the creation of new school districts and
6 the benefits and challenges of those new districts;
- 7 (8) Assess the need for alternative governance structures, operations, management, and
8 policy models for districts with enrollment greater than 75,000;
- 9 (9) Explore options for the restructuring or reorganizing of school districts with an
10 enrollment of over 75,000 and the potential impact on:
- 11 (a) Federal, state, and local funding;
- 12 (b) School taxes and taxing authority;
- 13 (c) District boundaries and student enrollment;
- 14 (d) Continuation of student services;
- 15 (e) District real property and facilities;
- 16 (f) District bonding liability;
- 17 (g) District property;
- 18 (h) Demographic composition, including racial makeup;
- 19 (i) Transportation;
- 20 (j) Governance;
- 21 (k) Interscholastic athletics;
- 22 (l) Student performance and postgraduation readiness;
- 23 (m) Assessment and accountability;
- 24 (n) Personnel and tenure;
- 25 (o) Transition and startup timelines;
- 26 (p) Implementation costs;
- 27 (q) Compliance with federal law; and

- 1 (r) Any other issue;
- 2 (10) Evaluate the short-term and long-term impacts of any potential governance,
3 operation, or management changes of school districts with an enrollment greater
4 than 75,000; and
- 5 (11) Develop and submit any recommendations and changes the task force may adopt
6 relating to the governance and administration of school districts with enrollment
7 greater than 75,000 and how to better ensure the efficient and effective organization
8 of the Commonwealth's school districts to the Legislative Research Commission by
9 December 1, 2024.

10 ➔Section 2. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force
11 shall be composed of the following members, with final membership of the task force
12 being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

- 13 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of
14 the House, one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 15 (2) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
16 whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 17 (3) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority Floor
18 Leader of the House;
- 19 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the
20 Senate;
- 21 (5) The State Auditor or designee;
- 22 (6) The mayor or designee from the largest city located within districts with a student
23 enrollment greater than 75,000; and
- 24 (7) To be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission to ensure broad political
25 and geographical representation within any school district with an enrollment
26 greater than 75,000 and ensure that such appointments reflect the racial minority
27 and gender composition of the school districts based upon the most recent data from

1 the United States Census Bureau:

2 (a) Two members who are taxpayers living in a school district with an enrollment
3 greater than 75,000, who are not current employees of the school district, have
4 competency and experience or knowledge in the field of education, and have
5 children that are currently attending or recently graduated within the past five
6 years from the school district;

7 (b) One member with experience in the finance, management, and operations of
8 large businesses that operate in the Commonwealth;

9 (c) One member who is a certified teacher currently employed as a classroom
10 teacher in a school district with enrollment greater than 75,000 who has at
11 least five years of experience working in the district; and

12 (d) One member from a list of three nominees that are recommended by the
13 superintendents of school districts with student enrollment of 75,000 who is a
14 principal.

15 ➔Section 3. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force
16 shall meet at least twice per month. The Legislative Research Commission shall assign
17 staff from the Commission or the Office of Education Accountability as necessary to
18 assist the task force to conduct its business. The Commission may also enter into
19 contracts with consultants to assist the task force in its duties.

20 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
21 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
22 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
23 designate a study completion date.