

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 or addressed the benefits and  
6 challenges of:
- 7 (a) The creation of new school districts and the benefits and challenges of those  
8 new districts;
- 9 (b) The expansion of the membership of the school board; and
- 10 (c) The modification of the selection process of the members of the school board;
- 11 (8) Assess the need for alternative governance structures, operations, management, and  
12 policy models for districts with enrollment greater than 75,000;
- 13 (9) Explore options for the restructuring or reorganizing of school districts with an  
14 enrollment of over 75,000 and the potential impact on:
- 15 (a) Federal, state, and local funding;
- 16 (b) School taxes and taxing authority;
- 17 (c) District boundaries and student enrollment;
- 18 (d) Continuation of student services;
- 19 (e) District real property and facilities;
- 20 (f) District bonding liability;
- 21 (g) District property;
- 22 (h) Demographic composition, including racial makeup;
- 23 (i) Transportation;
- 24 (j) Governance;
- 25 (k) Interscholastic athletics;
- 26 (l) Student performance and postgraduation readiness;
- 27 (m) Assessment and accountability;

- 1 (n) Personnel and tenure;
- 2 (o) Transition and startup timelines;
- 3 (p) Implementation costs;
- 4 (q) Compliance with federal law; and
- 5 (r) Any other issue;
- 6 (10) Evaluate the short-term and long-term impacts of any potential governance,  
7 operation, or management changes of school districts with an enrollment greater  
8 than 75,000; and
- 9 (11) Develop and submit any recommendations and changes the task force may adopt  
10 relating to the governance and administration of school districts with enrollment  
11 greater than 75,000 and how to better ensure the efficient and effective organization  
12 of the Commonwealth's school districts to the Legislative Research Commission by  
13 December 1, 2024.
- 14 ➔Section 2. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force  
15 shall be composed of the following members, with final membership of the task force  
16 being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:
- 17 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of  
18 the House, one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 19 (2) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of  
20 whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 21 (3) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority Floor  
22 Leader of the House;
- 23 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the  
24 Senate;
- 25 (5) The State Auditor or designee;
- 26 (6) The mayor or designee from the largest city located within districts with a student  
27 enrollment greater than 75,000; and

1 (7) To be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission to ensure broad political  
2 and geographical representation within any school district with an enrollment  
3 greater than 75,000 and ensure that such appointments reflect the racial minority  
4 and gender composition of the school districts based upon the most recent data from  
5 the United States Census Bureau:

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

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

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

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

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

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