

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

3 WHEREAS, Section 183 of the Constitution of Kentucky provides that the General
4 Assembly shall provide for an efficient system of common schools throughout the State;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has placed high priority in ensuring students
7 achieve at high levels; and

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has the responsibility of ensuring that the state's
9 governance models and currently established school districts are not hindering student
10 achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that many schools in the
12 Commonwealth have unacceptable proficiency rates in reading, writing, and
13 mathematics, especially in school districts with an enrollment greater than 75,000
14 students in elementary, middle, and high school; and

15 WHEREAS, parents of students, including taxpayers, expect school districts to
16 ensure that local policies abide by state policies and statutes; and

17 WHEREAS, revenues and expenditures of school districts are optimized to
18 minimize per pupil cost and maximize the highest graduation rates so that students will
19 have the greatest opportunity to enter the workforce or obtain higher level of degrees; and

20 WHEREAS, the General Assembly, in fulfillment of its obligations, wishes to
21 assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the various types of schools within Kentucky's
22 largest county school districts with student enrollment greater than 75,000 in which
23 parents may enroll their children; and

24 WHEREAS, the General Assembly seeks expert opinions and research from
25 education-focused institutions such as the Pritchard Committee, the Council on
26 Postsecondary Education, national educational research organizations, and any other
27 organization that can provide relevant and pertinent information that pertains to school

1 governance structures;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

- 7 (1) Review current district governance and administration models of Kentucky's largest
8 county school districts with student enrollment greater than 75,000 and compare the
9 governance and operational structures to school districts in other states with similar
10 size and demographic composition;
- 11 (2) Review publications, reports, and analyses of school governance relating to district
12 size, the efficiency of districts, and the effects of size on student outcomes,
13 including but not limited to a report from the Office of Education Accountability on
14 school district effectiveness that was approved in the office's 2024 research agenda
15 and previous Kentucky Department of Education management reports;
- 16 (3) Hear testimony from statewide education entities with experience in research on
17 and expertise in education organizational structures, policies, and governance;
- 18 (4) Hear testimony from parents, teachers, school administrators, and members of
19 school councils and local boards of districts with an enrollment greater than 75,000
20 on the strengths and weaknesses of existing governing structures and possible
21 alternatives;
- 22 (5) Review relevant past performance audits, correction plans, and other analyses of
23 school districts with enrollment greater than 75,000;
- 24 (6) Review how other states have implemented the creation of new school districts and
25 the benefits and challenges of those new districts;
- 26 (7) Assess the need for additional school districts within a county with a county school
27 district with enrollment greater than 75,000;

- 1 (8) Explore options for the creation of new school districts from school districts with an
2 enrollment of over 75,000 and the potential impact on:
- 3 (a) Federal, state, and local funding;
 - 4 (b) School taxes and taxing authority;
 - 5 (c) District boundaries and student enrollment;
 - 6 (d) Continuation of student services;
 - 7 (e) District real property and facilities;
 - 8 (f) District bonding liability;
 - 9 (g) District property;
 - 10 (h) Racial makeup;
 - 11 (i) Transportation;
 - 12 (j) Governance;
 - 13 (k) Interscholastic athletics;
 - 14 (l) Assessment and accountability;
 - 15 (m) Personnel and tenure;
 - 16 (n) Transition and startup timelines;
 - 17 (o) Implementation costs;
 - 18 (p) Compliance with federal law; and
 - 19 (q) Any other issue;
- 20 (9) Assess the current cost-benefit analysis as it relates to the yearly per pupil costs of
21 providing education in school district with an enrollment greater than 75,000;
- 22 (10) Evaluate the current impact and future impact due to any governance changes of
23 school districts that are surrounded by school districts with an enrollment greater
24 than 75,000;
- 25 (11) Examine any other investigative initiative that is relevant and pertinent data and
26 information; and
- 27 (12) Develop and submit any recommendations and changes the task force may adopt

1 relating to the school districts with enrollment greater than 75,000 and their
2 governance and administration and how to better ensure the efficient and effective
3 organization of the Commonwealth's school districts to the Legislative Research
4 Commission by December 1, 2024.

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

- 8 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of
9 the House, one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 10 (2) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
11 whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;
- 12 (3) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority Floor
13 Leader of the House;
- 14 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the
15 Senate;
- 16 (5) The State Auditor or designee;
- 17 (6) To be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission to ensure broad political
18 and geographical representation within any school district with an enrollment
19 greater than 75,000 and ensure that such appointments reflect the racial minority
20 and gender composition of the school districts based upon the most recent data from
21 the United States Census Bureau:
 - 22 (a) Two members who are taxpayers living in a school district with an enrollment
23 greater than 75,000, who are not current employees of the school district, have
24 competency and experience or knowledge in the field of education, and have
25 children that are currently attending or recently graduated within the past five
26 years from the school district;
 - 27 (b) Two members with the experience in finance, management, and operations of

- 1 large businesses that operate in the Commonwealth; and
- 2 (c) One member who is a certified teacher currently employed as a classroom
- 3 teacher in a school district with enrollment greater than 75,000 who has at
- 4 least five years of experience working in the district; and
- 5 (7) The mayor or designee from the largest city located in districts with a student
- 6 enrollment greater than 75,000.

7 ➔Section 3. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force

8 shall meet at least twice per month. The Legislative Research Commission shall assign

9 staff from the Commission or the Office of Education Accountability as necessary to

10 assist the task force to conduct its business. The Commission may also enter into

11 contracts with consultants to assist the task force in its duties.

12 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the

13 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the

14 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to

15 designate a study completion date.