

1 A RESOLUTION reaffirming the authority of locally elected school boards to
2 govern school districts through policy and procedure in accordance with state law.

3 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has long recognized that locally
4 elected boards of education are best positioned to govern school districts in a manner
5 responsive to their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Revised Statutes clearly vest governing authority,
7 policy-making power, and oversight responsibility in local boards of education; and

8 WHEREAS, KRS 160.160 establishes that members of local boards of education
9 are elected by the voters of their districts and are directly accountable to the public they
10 serve; and

11 WHEREAS, KRS 160.290 assigns to local boards of education the general control
12 and management of the public schools within their district, including the adoption of
13 policies, rules, and procedures necessary for effective operations; and

14 WHEREAS, KRS 160.340 authorizes local boards of education to adopt and
15 enforce policies governing personnel, students, operations, and administration consistent
16 with state law; and

17 WHEREAS, KRS 158.645 and 158.6453 recognize that while statewide standards
18 exist, local boards retain discretion in implementation through locally adopted policies
19 and procedures; and

20 WHEREAS, recent actions, directives, and practices, whether intentional or
21 inadvertent, have risked blurring or diminishing the lawful authority of locally elected
22 school boards by bypassing, undermining, and disregarding duly adopted board policies;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, preservation of local control through elected governance is essential to
25 transparency, accountability, parental trust, and constitutional principles of a
26 representative government;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
2 *Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby reaffirms the authority of locally elected boards of
4 education as the controlling governance structure under state law to govern school
5 districts through duly adopted policies and procedures.

6 ➔Section 2. The Senate reaffirms that:

7 (1) An individual administrator, employee, external agency, or non-elected body
8 shall not supersede, disregard, or act contrary to local school board-adopted policy unless
9 expressly authorized by Acts of the General Assembly, federal law, or lawful local board
10 of education action;

11 (2) All district operations, administrative decisions, and enforcement actions shall
12 be conducted in strict accordance with policies adopted by the local board of education,
13 consistent with the Kentucky Revised Statutes;

14 (3) The roles of superintendents and administrators are to carry out and
15 administer local board of education policy, and not to create de facto policy through
16 unilateral action; and

17 (4) Any practice that circumvents local board of education authority or excludes
18 the board from its statutory role in governance is inconsistent with Kentucky law and
19 public accountability.

20 ➔Section 3. This Resolution shall serve as the Senate's formal affirmation of local
21 school board authority.

22 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
23 Resolution to Senator Aaron Reed, and copies to the Kentucky Department of Education,
24 300 Sower Blvd. 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, for distribution to each school
25 district.