

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.