

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 district; and

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

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

6 (1) Review current district governance and administration models of Kentucky's
7 largest county school district and compare the governance and operational structures to
8 school districts in other states with similar size and demographic composition;

9 (2) Review publications, reports, and analyses of school governance relating to
10 district size, the efficiency of a district, and the effects of size on student outcomes,
11 including but not limited to a report from the Office of Education Accountability on
12 school district effectiveness that was approved in the office's 2024 research agenda and
13 previous Kentucky Department of Education management reports;

14 (3) Hear testimony from statewide education entities with experience in research
15 on and expertise in education organizational structures, policies, and governance;

16 (4) Hear testimony from parents, teachers, school administrators, and members of
17 school councils and the local board of the state's largest county school district on the
18 strengths and weaknesses of existing governing structures and possible alternatives;

19 (5) Review relevant past performance audits, correction plans, and other analyses
20 of the state's largest county school district;

21 (6) Review how other states have implemented the creation of new school
22 districts and the benefits and challenges of those new districts;

23 (7) Assess the need for additional school districts;

24 (8) Explore options for the creation of new school districts from the state's largest
25 county school district and the potential impact on:

26 (a) Federal, state, and local funding;

27 (b) School taxes and taxing authority;

- 1 (c) District boundaries and student enrollment;
- 2 (d) Continuation of student services;
- 3 (e) District real property and facilities;
- 4 (f) District bonding liability;
- 5 (g) District property;
- 6 (h) Racial makeup;
- 7 (i) Transportation;
- 8 (j) Governance;
- 9 (k) Interscholastic athletics;
- 10 (l) Assessment and accountability;
- 11 (m) Personnel and tenure;
- 12 (n) Transition and startup timelines;
- 13 (o) Implementation costs;
- 14 (p) Compliance with federal law; and
- 15 (q) Any other issue;
- 16 (9) Assess the current cost-benefit analysis as it relates to the yearly per pupil
- 17 costs of providing education in the state's largest county school district;
- 18 (10) Evaluate the current and future impact due to any governance changes of
- 19 school districts that are surrounded by the state's largest county school district;
- 20 (11) Examine any other investigative initiative that is relevant and pertinent data
- 21 and information; and
- 22 (12) Develop and submit any recommendations and changes the task force may
- 23 adopt relating to the state's largest county school district and its governance and
- 24 administration and how to better ensure the efficient and effective organization of the
- 25 Commonwealth's school districts to the Legislative Research Commission by December
- 26 1, 2024.

27 ➔Section 2. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force

1 shall be composed of the following members, with final membership of the task force
2 being subject to the consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

3 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
4 of the House, one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;

5 (2) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate,
6 one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;

7 (3) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority
8 Floor Leader of the House;

9 (4) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of
10 the Senate;

11 (5) The State Auditor or designee;

12 (6) To be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission:

13 (a) Two members who are taxpayers living in the state's largest county school
14 district, who are not current employees of the school district, have competency and
15 experience or knowledge in the field of education, and have children that are currently
16 attending or recently graduated within the past five years from the school district;

17 (b) Two members with experience in finance, management, and operations of
18 large businesses that operate in the Commonwealth; and

19 (c) One member who is a certified teacher currently or formerly employed as a
20 classroom teacher in the state's largest county school district who has at least five years of
21 experience working in the district; and

22 (7) The mayor or designee from the largest city located in the state's largest
23 county school district.

24 ➔Section 3. The Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force
25 shall meet at least twice per month. The Legislative Research Commission shall assign
26 staff from the Commission or the Office of Education Accountability as necessary to
27 assist the task force to conduct its business and shall determine the meeting locations of

1 the task force during the interim. The Commission may also enter into contracts with
2 consultants to assist the task force in its duties.

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