



PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS KY

Public Funds for Public Schools

Welcome!

Thanks for being here.

While we wait to get started,
please write the org you're with
in the comments.

Purpose + Agenda

- Mission + Goals
- A General Timeline for Protect Our Schools KY 2.0
- Why Now? + Talking Points
- **Visioning Session**
- Storybanking
- Ways for You to Get Involved



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What is Protect Our Schools KY 2.0?

Protect Our Schools KY unites public education advocates and allied organizations, building on the momentum and success of the Amendment 2 campaign.

Together, we are dedicated to advancing a bold vision that champions support, respect, and meaningful reinvestment in Kentucky's public schools.

Our leadership committee:

- Council for Better Education
- Fairness
- Jefferson County Teachers Association
- Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
- Kentucky Education Association
- Kentucky Student Voice Team
- Kentucky Parent Teacher Association
- Louisville Urban League



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What does that mean?

*It means we are
focused on school
funding (still!).*



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Why is this happening now?

- The resounding defeat of Amendment 2 in 2024 reaffirmed Kentuckians' **collective commitment to public education for all**. That victory, led by teachers, parents, students, and community members from every corner of the Commonwealth, sent a clear message: **Kentucky stands united in protecting public schools and ensuring that public funds go to investing in better ideas that actually work in bolstering student learning, not vouchers.**



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2025 Goals

Broadly

- ReLaunch Protect Our Schools KY with New Mission
- Gain Endorsements for New Mission to rebuild broader coalition
- **Pivot to proactive legislative campaign with the goal of substantial reinvestment in public education in the 2026 budget session**



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So, what does that look like?

- Through a series of **public engagement campaigns and coalition building**, we will be creating a public agenda to take to the legislature ahead of the 2026 budget session that stays true to our mission and advances a bold vision that champions support, respect, and meaningful reinvestment in Kentucky's public schools.
- **We will be expanding our coalition and engaging stakeholders from Paducah to Pikeville** - and everywhere in between - to gain support for our collective agenda.



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So, what does that look like?

- We will continue to lift up local stakeholders and local messengers, as we **demonstrate the tangible impact bold reinvestment can have on our schools.**
- We will call on Kentucky's federal delegation to **publicly oppose any efforts that could weaken Kentucky's public schools or cut or threaten critical funding.**



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Talking Points

- The 2024 campaign against Amendment 2 was a monumental victory for our public schools. Kentuckians from across the Commonwealth made clear that they believe our elected leaders should be doubling down on the commitment to public education. **Voters agreed - in all 120 counties - that we should be investing in public education.** The election's outcome wasn't just a win for our students, but was a commitment to build a brighter future for every child in Kentucky.
- **We are in a unique position to chart a course for our future and we are ready to organize for it. State funding increases haven't kept up with inflation since the 2008 Great Recession. This has affected everything from students' class sizes, transportation funding that Kentucky families need, and more. We can do better for our students and families.**



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Talking Points

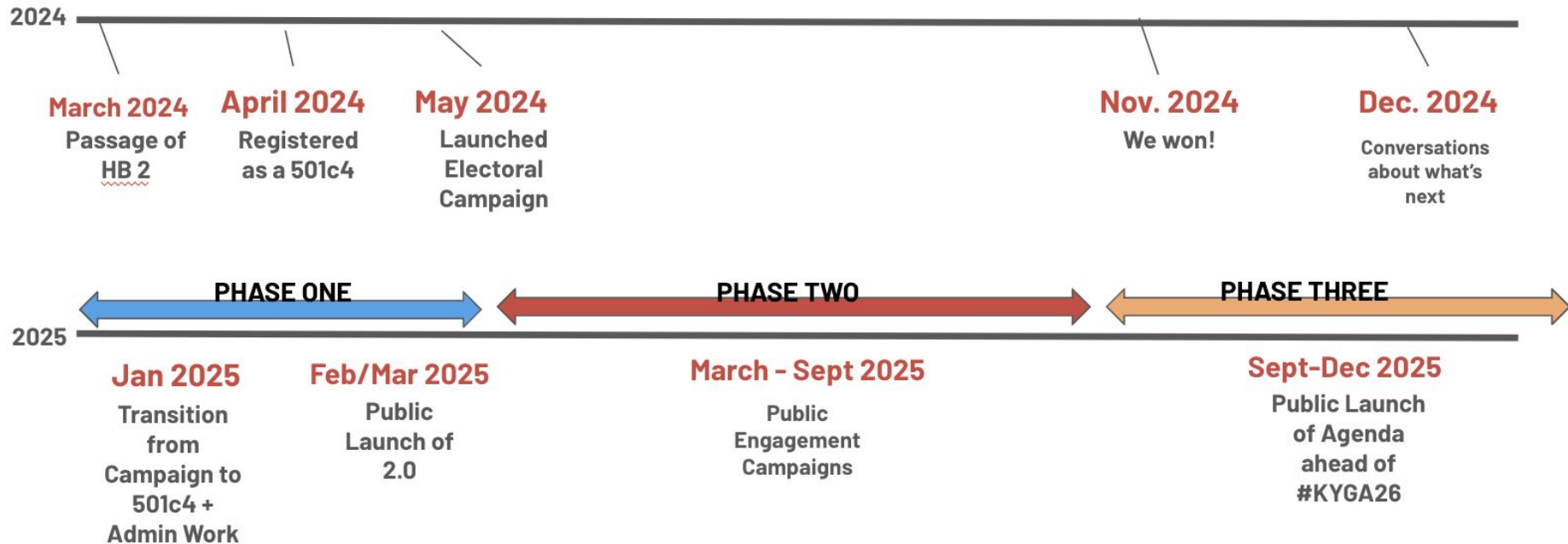
- The **funding gap** between wealthy and poor school districts has grown to levels declared unconstitutional in the 1980s.
- **The state has not fully funded school transportation**, despite a law requiring they do so, since 2004.
- Average, inflation-adjusted educator salaries across school districts in Kentucky are **20% less** than they were in 2008.
- State core funding for public schools (known as SEEK) **has declined an inflation-adjusted 26% since 2008.**



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Timeline



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What We Have:

- *The Right Message*
- *The Right Team*
- *The Right Messengers (Y'all!)*



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Ways to Get Involved

How to Get Involved

Have Your Organization Endorse Our Campaign

- If you endorse you can also join our comms committee, which will be beginning again soon.



Get Involved



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How to Get Involved

Become a Regional Lead (!!!!!!!!!!!)

- Want to help us push out information and organize specifically in your House or Senate district? Let us know when you complete our general volunteer form.



Get Involved



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How to Get Involved

Share/Invite Members to Upcoming Events

- 7/22 - Ashland
- 8/18 - Paducah
- 8/28 - Somerset
- 9/03 - Prestonsburg
- 9/16 - Hazard



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Call to Action

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- **We need you.**
- **Building a strong coalition and coordinating actions will be what helps us move the needle ahead of the 2026 session.**
- **Endorse our campaign, stay engaged, and let's win! We couldn't have won last year without you and this fight will be no different.**



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