

# **A Resolution in Support of Kentucky Public Education**

## **By Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year**

**WHEREAS**, being selected Kentucky Superintendent of the Year is the highest honor bestowed on a member of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators and a tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead our school districts, and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year hold sacred the value of public education and possess a unique perspective on its power to shape and change the future for children and families, and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year have gathered to speak with one voice calling for recognition that Kentucky public schools are vitally important and worthy of support, celebration and appreciation, and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky public school students continue to demonstrate remarkable progress including increased graduation rates among the top ten in the nation, improved college and career readiness, a fourth-place national ranking for fourth grade reading, and increases in academic performance resulting from the application of research-supported instructional best practices delivered by high-quality teachers, despite ongoing efforts to cast public schools as inferior, and

**WHEREAS**, investing in public education is the best and most impactful method to ensure economic growth and the overall health of our commonwealth as it is critical in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that students leave public schools college and career ready and prepared to fill current and future jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, a robust investment in education is necessary to equip schools with the resources - personnel, facilities, technology, buses - to ensure ALL Kentucky KIDS acquire the skills and knowledge needed for college and career success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and

**WHEREAS**, a robust investment in education will continue to close the "equity gap" which will decrease the divide between the educated and uneducated, wealthy and poor and the strong and the weak, and

**WHEREAS**, the existence of a strong, effective system of free public education for all Kentucky children is essential to our democratic system of government, and

**WHEREAS**, preparing children for democracy embraces the notion that, to thrive, this nation must have citizens committed to the ideals and work of democracy, equipped to operate in a democracy and who can find common ground in their differences and respect where common ground is absent, and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky public schools provide students with broad-based educational opportunities to include: learning multiple languages; having exposure to the history, culture, and context of all regions of the world; learning how to collaboratively solve problems and interact with people of diverse cultures and different lands; and developing empathy for human differences, commonalities, and backgrounds, and

**WHEREAS**, Kentucky public schools are critical to student health and well-being. Public schools serve as a lifeline for children who cannot access health services outside of school or who suffer from limited access to healthy nutrition. Schools are uniquely positioned to help children and youth acquire life-long, health-promoting knowledge, skills and behaviors, and

**WHEREAS**, standing up for public education and Kentucky's KIDS truly matters, therefore;

**BEITRESOLVED**, Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year call on state lawmakers to prioritize full fiscal support for the Commonwealth's public schools and to honor promised benefits critical to those who commit their professional and personal lives to our schools and to our KIDS;

Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year strongly advocate for state policy committed to fully supporting and educating the whole child, providing necessary financial support for academic and non-academic factors, including counseling, extra/co-curricular activities, student safety and social/emotional supports and to empower local education leaders to implement, manage and lead school districts;

Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year support an inclusive, safe and innovative quality public education system that ensures ALL students can succeed, regardless of their zip code, the color of their skin, their native language, their gender or gender identity, their immigration status, their religion or social standing, while promoting equity and excellence;

Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year declare a commitment to these values and we reject any policies that would undermine them;

Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year urge our Governor and state legislature to meet their constitutional and moral responsibility to properly and fully fund public schools and support the children who depend on public education to prepare them to be happy, healthy, successful and productive citizens of the commonwealth;

Kentucky's Superintendents of the Year initiate the **Love KY Public Education** campaign to proclaim the good news of public education; to spark conversation leading to every Kentucky community having access to a high quality public school; and to openly and strongly support the students, teachers, leaders and employees of our public schools; and we invite the citizens of the commonwealth to stand with us and take up this important cause;

This, the 23rd day of February 2018.

#### KENTUCKY'S SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Jim Evans, 2018	Mr. Larry Vick, 2008	Dr. Lawrence Allen, 1998
Dr. Henry Webb, 2017	Mr. Bryan Blavatt, 2007	Mr. Gayle Ecton, 1996
Mr. Owens Saylor, 2016	Dr. Stephen Daeschner, 2006	Dr. James Simpson, 1995
Dr. Jim Flynn, 2015	Mr. David Baird, 2005	Dr. Leon Mooneyhan, 1994
Ms. Nannette Johnston, 2014	Mr. Frank Welch, 2004	Dr. Donald Ingwerson, 1992, 1989, 1988
Dr. Randy Poe, 2013	Mr. Jack Moreland, 2003	Dr. Ronald Walton, 1991
Dr. Lu Settles Young, 2012	Dr. Blake Haselton, 2002	Dr. Robert Arvin, 1990
Dr. Tom Shelton, 2011	Mr. Stuart Silberman, 2001	
Mr. Tim Hanner, 2010	Mr. Bernard Sandfoss, 2000	
Mr. Stuart Silberman, 2009	Dr. Robert Storer, 1999	