



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

AND THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION LEADERSHIP



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NEWS RELEASE

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EXECUTIVE BUDGET (HB 200) VIOLATES KY CONSTITUTION, MUST BE ABANDONED

Frankfort, KY -- The president of Kentucky’s largest organization of school leaders has stated that his group believes the provisions of **HB 200**, the executive branch budget put forth by Governor Matt Bevin, are in conflict with the constitutional standard requiring the General Assembly to be exclusively responsible for adequately funding Kentucky’s school districts.

Dr. Casey Allen, president of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) and superintendent of the Ballard County Schools, said the budget bill, as currently drafted, represents “a clear and flagrant breach of the legislature’s constitutional duty to fund elementary and secondary education.”

“**HB 200** calls for shifting nearly \$500 million of reductions in state funding onto the backs of local school districts,” Allen said. “The Kentucky Supreme Court has declared – emphatically and unequivocally – that this process is constitutionally impermissible.”

In 1990, in **Rose v. Council for Better Education**, the Supreme Court addressed the issue as follows:

“First, it is the obligation, the sole obligation, of the General Assembly to provide for a system of common schools in Kentucky. The obligation to so provide is clear and unequivocal and is, in effect, a constitutional mandate. . . This obligation cannot be shifted to local counties and local school districts.”

Allen said, “The court’s holding is clear and compelling. Dumping the state’s financial obligations onto local districts is simply not allowed, regardless of the reason.”

Dr. Allen cited two of the largest budget cuts as examples – pupil transportation and school district employee health insurance. These two cost shifts to local districts total nearly \$400 million.

He said, “The legislature is free to choose to stop providing transportation for public school students. It is free to set policy regarding the provision of school employee health insurance. But what the legislature cannot lawfully do is to simply shift any portion of the financial burden for these items onto local school districts.”

“We call upon the members of the General Assembly to reject the contents of **HB 200**, and to start afresh in drafting a budget that provides the constitutionally required level of funding for public schools in our state,” Allen concluded.

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.

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