

# Madison County Schools formulating plan for SB 181

By Jemi Chew • Citizen Intern

As schools begin their summer break, educators and administrators are turning their attention to a new law that could significantly impact how they communicate with students.

Senate Bill 181, recently passed by the Kentucky General Assembly, requires school districts to implement traceable communication systems when employees message students online. The legislation aims to protect students from inappropriate or unmonitored contact by ensuring transparency in all digital interactions between staff and students.

Senator Phillip Wheeler, who co-sponsored the bill, said the goal is not to interfere with positive relationships between students and educators, but to safeguard children from potential misconduct.

“Our intention is not to harm the relationship between students and school administrators or teachers,”

Wheeler said. “But just to make sure that kids—who are really our most vulnerable people in society—are protected from that very small number of bad apples who might seek to abuse these types of privileged communications.”

The bill has prompted school systems across the state to reevaluate how staff interact with students on digital platforms, particularly through social media and messaging apps.

“SB 181 is still a plan that is in the works,” Superintendent of Madison County Schools Randy Neeley said. “We have a plan to send out to all of our employees and parents but discussions concerning the bill are all over the map and the language looks as if it will change in the next couple of days. I am leaning on our legislators and also our board attorney to work through the bill so it will make a positive impact to our kids and employees as we move forward.”



## Thursday, June 26

- Ugly Bug Ball, a bug themed event for kids, will be from 12-2 p.m. at the Skate Park Shelter on Thursday, June 26. Organized by Berea Parks and Recreation.
- There will be a summer cookout from 5-8 p.m. at 3 Artist Circle on Thursday, June 26. Food will be for purchase but all games and events are free and open to all ages. This event is organized by Fire and Fern Glass Studio, Maddox Made, and Top Drawer Gallery.
- The Berea Free Market, where you can “shop” donated items for free, will run from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 at 400 Jefferson Street. Drop off for items is from 5-5:50 p.m. This event is organized by the Appalachian Community Meal Project and the Free Market Community.
- The Chenault Vineyards in Richmond hosts free yoga sessions every Thursday from 6 – 7 p.m. at The Ceremony Point in good weather and The Reception Hall in poor weather. Location will be posted on Chenault Vineyards’ social media. Bring your own mat. All levels of experience welcome.

## Friday, June 27

- Fire Truck Friday will be on Friday, June 27 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Skate Park. The Berea Fire Department will be there to spray kids with water hoses.

## Saturday, June 28

- Richmond Parks and Recreation is hosting an intro to family camping course on Saturday, June 28 from 9-11 a.m. at Camp Catalpa Park. Learn how to build a fire and more.
- The Berea Farmers Market will be on Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 635 Chestnut Street. The Berea Old Time Music Circle will be playing there from 10 a.m.-noon.
- Join a free hike organized by the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center at the Pinnacles on Saturday, June 28 at 10 a.m. You will hike with FOC staff and Berea College students.
- There will be a chalk drawing contest hosted by Berea Parks and Recreation at the story trail from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 28.
- Get free smash burgers and hotdogs at the Berea Skatepark from 4-8pm on Saturday, June 28. There will be a skateboarding competition, car show, and more.

## Sunday, June 29

- Celebrate International Mud Day on Sunday, June 29 by playing in mud by the creek from 1-3 p.m. at 2047 Big Hill Rd. This event is organized by the Madison County Public Library, Winterberry Studio, and the Forestry Outreach Center. Rain or shine event.
- There will be a Creekside Bike Bash at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 29 at Silver Creek Bike Park organized by GOKY. Join other bike lovers, hit the pump track, and show off your best tricks.
- Join Richmond House of Prayer for their Independence Day celebration on Sunday, June 29 from 5-10 p.m at 330 Mule Shed Lane. There will be free food, fun, and fireworks for the whole family.

## Monday, June 30

- Behind the Magic Summer Camp by Spotlight Acting School runs from June 30 – July 4 at 214 Richmond Road North. Drop off at 7:45 a.m. and pick up by 4:15 p.m. The camp is for ages 11-18 and costs \$125. Kids will learn how to build sets, paint props, design lights and sound, and try out foam sculpting, woodworking, and 3D printing. Sign up here: <https://www.thspotlight-playhouse.com/2025/04/13/behind-the-magic-summer-camp-june-30-july-4/>
- Attendees 18 and under can enjoy a free lunch to-go at the Berea Madison County Public Library Community Room from 11 a.m.-noon.

## Tuesday, July 1

- The Berea Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Coffee and Conversation event at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 1 at Diner Bell Restaurant. Join them for a morning of networking, idea-sharing, and community connection.

## Wednesday, July 2

- First Baptist Church in Richmond is organizing a faith, family, fireworks event at Cannan Acres Farm on July 2 from 7-9:30 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on. There will be food for purchase and free games.

Have an event for the calendar?  
Contact Berea Citizen intern  
Jemi Chew at  
[news@bereacitizen.net](mailto:news@bereacitizen.net)

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**BUDGET SUMMARY**  
AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

SECTION ONE: The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

| General Fund                              |                                     |               |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 5000                                      | GENERAL GOVERNMENT                  | 7,630,050.00  |
| 5100                                      | PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY  | 2,699,650.00  |
| 5200                                      | GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION       | 1,019,800.00  |
| 5300                                      | SOCIAL SERVICES                     | 337,100.00    |
| 5400                                      | RECREATION AND CULTURE              | 1,152,500.00  |
| 6400                                      | OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES/SVC | 54,000.00     |
| 7100                                      | GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS            | 1,202,500.00  |
| 7200                                      | HOLDING COMPANY BONDS               | 519,200.00    |
| 7700                                      | LEASES                              | 108,400.00    |
| 8000                                      | CAPITAL PROJECTS                    | 1,830,000.00  |
| 9100                                      | GENERAL SERVICES                    | 1,150,700.00  |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 26,655,300.00 |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 2,317,500.00  |
| Total                                     |                                     | 46,676,700.00 |
| Road Fund                                 |                                     |               |
| 6100                                      | ROADS                               | 3,768,600.00  |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 20,000.00     |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 617,000.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 4,405,600.00  |
| Jail Fund                                 |                                     |               |
| 5000                                      | GENERAL GOVERNMENT                  |               |
| 5100                                      | PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY  | 4,750,300.00  |
| 9100                                      | GENERAL SERVICES                    | 1,000.00      |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 20,000.00     |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 796,300.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 5,567,600.00  |
| Local Government Economic Assistance Fund |                                     |               |
| 6100                                      | ROADS                               | 100,000.00    |
| 7100                                      | GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS            | 134,600.00    |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 465,900.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 700,500.00    |
| Federal Grants                            |                                     |               |
| 8000                                      | CAPITAL PROJECTS                    |               |
| Total                                     |                                     |               |
| CSEPP                                     |                                     |               |
| 5100                                      | PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY  | 6,381,000.00  |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 1,310,900.00  |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 133,100.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 7,825,000.00  |
| OPIOID ABATEMENT/SETTLEMENT FUND          |                                     |               |
| 5200                                      | GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION       |               |
| OPIOID ABATEMENT/SETTLEMENT FUND          |                                     |               |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 1,975,000.00  |
| Total                                     |                                     | 1,975,000.00  |
| E-911                                     |                                     |               |
| 5100                                      | PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY  | 3,547,100.00  |
| 8000                                      | CAPITAL PROJECTS                    | 1,150,000.00  |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 20,000.00     |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 693,900.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 5,411,000.00  |
| SELF-INSURED HEALTH INSURANCE ACCOUNT     |                                     |               |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 503,000.00    |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| 9400                                      | FRINGE BENEFITS- EMPLOYERS SHARE    | 1,900,000.00  |
| Total                                     |                                     | 2,403,000.00  |
| CLERK FUND                                |                                     |               |
| 5000                                      | GENERAL GOVERNMENT                  | 160,500.00    |
| Total                                     |                                     | 160,500.00    |
| AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND             |                                     |               |
| 8000                                      | CAPITAL PROJECTS                    | 6,536,400.00  |
| 9100                                      | GENERAL SERVICES                    | 236,000.00    |
| 9200                                      | CONTINGENT APPROPRIATIONS           | 927,600.00    |
| 9300                                      | TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS            |               |
| Total                                     |                                     | 7,700,000.00  |
| Total Budget Appropriations               |                                     | 82,824,900.00 |

Adopted this 24th day of June, 2025

  
REAGAN TAYLOR, COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in Madison County are hereby notified that a copy of the county's adopted budget in full is available for public inspection at the Office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.