

Senate education bill approved

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Two of the Kentucky Senate's priority bills, both dealing with education, won approval from that chamber during the 19th day of the 60-day General Assembly's 2026 regular session.

Senate Bill 3, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Tichenor, R-Smithfield, would increase financial transparency requirements for local school districts by expanding public access to budget documents, financial reports, and spending information. The bill ensures school boards and superintendents provide clearer, more timely, and more accessible disclosures, and requires superintendents to publicly present the district's working budget so parents, taxpayers, and community members can clearly see

how education dollars are budgeted and spent in each district.

"Over the past year, we've seen repeated examples of wasteful spending and serious financial mismanagement in some of our largest school districts," Tichenor said. "When districts are running deficits, paying for questionable expenses, or making major financial decisions behind closed doors, that's a problem. SB 3 makes sure those practices are available to public view before they become a crisis."

Recent budget challenges in some of Kentucky's largest school districts have underscored the need for stronger fiscal transparency and oversight, she noted. By standardizing how financial information is presented statewide and reinforcing public notice requirements, SB 3 gives parents and taxpayers a clearer, more consistent

picture of how education dollars are managed across the state.

It passed 35-1. SB!, sponsored by Senate President pro tem David Givens, R-Greensburg, would put more power in the hands of the Jefferson County Public Schools superintendent, and limit the board to meeting only once a month.

In presenting the bill, Givens said, "We're talking about a district that receives eight percent of all the SEEK money we'd allocate for students in Kentucky. We're talking about 15 percent of all public school students. We're talking about a scope and size which is magnitudes larger than any other district in the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

He also noted that even with a \$1.9 billion budget, the academic record of JCPS is a concern. "We have 77 percent of Kentucky's lowest performing schools. It's vitally important to have a decision maker on the front-line overseeing operations and not being hamstrung by two many cooks in the kitchen."

The bill was approved, 29-7.

Both measures now head to the House for their consideration.



CITY OF WINCHESTER, KY COMMUNITY INFORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Representing KLC were (pictured from left with Mayor Reed) Chief Insurance Officer Greg Partin, Chief Member Services Officer Brian Traugott, and KLC President Paul Sandefur, who also serves as Mayor of Beaver Dam, Kentucky.

City welcomes KLC representatives

City of Winchester, KY Community Information

On Wednesday, February 4, Winchester Mayor JoEllen Reed and city department heads welcomed

representatives from the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) to City Hall. The visit marked the first stop on a statewide tour of KLC member cities.

During the meeting, city department heads shared an overview of their roles, professional backgrounds, and their

vision for both their departments and the Winchester community. KLC leaders discussed how the organization supports Kentucky cities, highlighted relevant proposed legislation, and engaged in meaningful conversation about Winchester's strengths and challenges.

KLC is a non-stock, nonprofit membership association serving more than 370 Kentucky cities and municipal agencies. The organization pro-

vides a wide range of services, including legislative advocacy, legal services, community consulting, training, policy development, research, and enterprise services such as financing options and municipal insurance.

We were grateful to host KLC's statewide leadership and appreciate the opportunity to share what makes Winchester special.

To learn more about the Kentucky League of Cities, visit klc.org.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lindsey Tichenor, R-Smithfield

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