

Why support Amendment 2?

Amendment 2 represents a promising future for Kentucky, allowing parents to choose the educational path that best serves their children.

The Amendment positions Kentucky to compete more effectively with neighboring states, which have already implemented educational choices, by attracting businesses and providing in-state jobs for their youth.

In the other 48 states where parents choose from education opportunities, the public schools remain unharmed and the favorite option for nearly 87% of the students. This fact alone debunks the assertion that parental choice harms public schools.

More importantly, the Amendment places the students' well-being at the forefront, regardless of their economic status, and relegates schools to serving students, not vice versa.

The Amendment can be the catalyst needed to transform education in Kentucky as it has in other states where academic achievement has increased for both public and non-public schools. This is a beacon of hope for our entire education system. It should be embraced, not feared.

For better understanding...

CRITICISM - "The amendment takes money away from public schools."

REALITY - This criticism is generally so vague it is difficult to understand how it takes money from public schools. First, the constitution remains unchanged concerning the mandate for the state to fund public schools adequately. The amendment allows, not requires, for funding **"in addition to, not instead of"** funding for public schools.

Second, if the reduction in revenue is because the parents choose to send their child to an alternative school, it is true the school will receive less SEEK funding from the state because it has fewer students. Ironically, the result is that the school has more funding per student because it retains all local and federal funding even though there are fewer students.

CRITICISM - "Allows funding of private or religious schools with public money."

REALITY - The ballot issue is solely about an amendment to the constitution, not any suggested school program, and who might be eligible to participate in future opportunities. While that criticism may be valid, it's important to note that the United States Supreme Court ruled several years ago that the economic benefits to citizens cannot be withheld because the sponsoring organization is religious.

CRITICISM - “The amendment will take children out of public schools.”

REALITY – If a child leaves a public school, it is likely because the school is not a good fit for that child. If the public school is performing well, it is not logical that a parent would remove their child to place them in a substandard alternative school. Nationally, about 87% of students remain in public schools. Public schools will continue to play a significant role in our society.

CRITICISM – “An amendment opens the door for school programs that do not address all the special needs of children.”

REALITY - The criticism equally applies to public schools and alternative education venues. This is precisely why parents should have school choices that fit their children’s needs, and if the public school is the best choice, so be it.

CRITICISM – “We do not need a constitutional amendment.”

REALITY - In a December 2022 decision on a school choice program, the Kentucky Supreme Court strongly suggested putting a constitutional amendment before the people of Kentucky to settle the issue because the constitution on education issues (written in the 1800s) is outdated.