



December 8, 2025

Members of the Kentucky General Assembly  
Kentucky State Capitol  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators' (KASA) Board of Directors, I am writing to express our support for the *Pre-K for All* initiative in Kentucky. As educators, we understand that early education can change a child's life, and we urge you to prioritize expanding voluntary preschool access during the 2026 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee's report provides compelling evidence that expanding access to high-quality preschool education will yield significant benefits for Kentucky's children, families, and economy. Currently, only 27 percent of Kentucky's four-year-olds are enrolled in public preschool programs, creating a gap that hinders their readiness for kindergarten and future academic success. By investing in *Pre-K for All*, we can ensure that every child starts their educational journey on the right foot, regardless of their family's income or background.

### **Supporting Children's Learning Journeys**

Children who enter kindergarten unprepared face significant challenges as they progress through their educational journey, leading to delays in learning and barriers to academic success in subsequent grades. Research shows that children who attend high-quality preschool programs are better equipped for kindergarten, demonstrating stronger language, literacy, and social-emotional skills. These early advantages translate into improved performance in later grades, reducing the risk of falling behind and the need for remedial support. By ensuring that all Kentucky children have access to preschool, we can help bridge the readiness gap and set them up for lifelong success.

### **Supporting Workforce Development**

A robust early childhood education system is vital for workforce development. Expanding access to preschool will enable working parents to pursue employment or further their education without the burden of excessive childcare costs. This initiative is not just educational; it is an economic imperative. When parents can work, they contribute to our economy, and children who attend preschool are more likely to succeed academically, leading to a well-prepared future workforce.

### **Empowering Families and Communities**

Investing in *Pre-K for All* empowers families by providing affordable and accessible pre-K options, alleviating financial strain, and allowing families to thrive both economically and socially. The long-term benefits are evident: children who attend high-quality preschool programs are less likely to require special education services, more likely to graduate from high school, and more likely to pursue higher education, contributing positively to our communities.

**Growing Leaders, Transforming Public Education, and Shaping Students' Futures**

PHONE: (502) 875-3411 TOLL FREE: (800) 928-KASA (5272) • 87 C. Michael Davenport Blvd. • Frankfort, KY 40601 • [www.kasa.org](http://www.kasa.org)

Chief Executive Officer • **Rhonda Caldwell, CAE, Ed.D.**

### **A Brighter Tomorrow**

The *Pre-K for All* initiative aligns with our vision to develop strong leaders, improve the quality and success of our school systems, and support a skilled, educated workforce. The data shows that for every dollar invested in early childhood education; we see a return of up to \$10 in public benefits. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to overlook. By acting now, we can ensure that our children are not only prepared for kindergarten but also equipped with the skills necessary for lifelong success.

KASA's membership reflects a deep understanding of Kentucky's education system, with more than 3,300 members from every school district. The experience and research from 18 other states—such as West Virginia, Alabama, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Iowa—demonstrate that investment in early childhood education leads to higher graduation rates, lower absenteeism, and improved academic outcomes.

We endorse the thoughtful, district-led approach to expansion outlined in the *Pre-K for All* initiative report. This report emphasizes the need for state funding while recognizing that local leaders are best positioned to meet the needs of their students and communities. A phased approach allows districts to implement programs at a pace that meets their specific needs, ensuring quality and effectiveness.

We urge you to support the *Pre-K for All* initiative, recognizing the profound impact it will have on our public schools, families, and communities. Together, we can build a stronger Kentucky where every child has the chance to succeed.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the children and families of the Commonwealth. KASA stands ready to work alongside you to make Kentucky's future even stronger.

Respectfully,



Rhonda Caldwell, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer