



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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July 9, 2020

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
United States Secretary of Education
LBJ Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos,

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on every sector of society. The need for another round of CARES funding for Kentucky's state budget is necessary to help save lives, jobs, small businesses, and infrastructure. Because education represents a large portion of every state budget, additional funding is critically important for our schools. The future of America's economy is in our classrooms today.

As Kentucky's Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Education and Workforce Development, and as a teacher myself, I am in tune with the health and safety challenges that every educational institution in Kentucky is facing as we contemplate how to resume in-person classes this fall. Keeping our faculties, staff, students and their families healthy and safe has never been so important.

This global pandemic has forced us to reimagine learning; to redesign school settings and create learning environments that are increasingly dependent upon communication and technology. The way schools have been funded in the past must evolve with these new educational practices. Our educators, students, and their families have all adapted to the changing times. *Our education funding must, too.*

While COVID-19 has certainly created new challenges, we cannot deny that it has also compounded old ones. Equitable access to broadband, technology, food services,

transportation, PPE, and mental and physical health services are necessary to provide support to all Kentucky students. In order to re-open schools safely this fall, every one of our schools and campuses desperately needs funding and the flexibility to adapt its dollars to the new challenges that have arisen, and will continue to arise, in education until a vaccine becomes available. While some districts may resume in-person classes creating the need for increased PPE and transportation funding, other districts may choose a distance learning model that requires funding for increased technology and broadband.

I ask that you support an additional round of CARES funding for Kentucky's budget and additional, flexible funding for our P-20 education system so that we can safely re-open schools this fall and meet the needs of our individual communities during these unprecedented times. Our ability to serve the whole child while protecting their health and safety will determine Kentucky's, and our country's, economic resilience on the other side of this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Coleman
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
SECRETARY, EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT