



## Resolution Concerning Amendment 2 on the November 2024 Ballot

**WHEREAS**, during the 2024 legislative session, lawmakers passed HB 2, leading to the inclusion of Amendment 2 on the November ballot, which would amend the Constitution of Kentucky to enable the General Assembly to provide financial support to private schools through public funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative serves 14 member school districts, consisting of over 230 schools, 20,000 educators, and 150,000 students;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative strongly urges the communities and region we serve to know the following effects of Amendment 2 on public education:

- I. Amendment 2, if passed, could significantly affect the system of public education by diverting taxpayer dollars away from public schools, which enroll 9 out of 10 students in the Commonwealth, and directing them to non-public entities, including private schools and homeschool organizations.
- II. Amendment 2 could allow Kentucky to adopt vouchers, education savings accounts, and scholarship tax credits, which have reduced public education funding in other states.
- III. Public schools in Kentucky are held to high standards of transparency, accountability, and performance, and must communicate academic performance to their communities. Amendment 2 would allow private schools to receive public funds, while not requiring the same oversight and safeguards of public funding.
- IV. Public schools are compelled to serve all populations; however, private schools and homeschool organizations do not have the same obligation or need for funding. Therefore, Amendment 2 will have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable student populations.
- V. According to the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, Amendment 2 could lead to significant reductions in state funding of public education. If Kentucky adopts models from states like Florida, OVEC's fourteen member districts could lose up to **\$204 million funding annually** and have a reduction of **up to 1,470 educators**.
- VI. Rural counties across Kentucky have very few, if any, private schools, meaning that taxpayer resources from these communities would be used to support education in other areas, leaving rural students and families disadvantaged while draining resources from their own public schools.
- VII. Rural school districts often serve as the largest employer in their communities, and the loss of funding resulting from Amendment 2 would not only harm public education but also have a devastating impact on the local economy through job losses, decreased public services, and weakened community infrastructure.
- VIII. In urban districts, losing students to private schools would erode public school funding and diminish their ability to provide high-quality education to all students, particularly those from low-income and underserved communities.
- IX. In suburban districts, Amendment 2 could increase the population of students enrolling in out-of-county private schools, creating instability within their public school systems and putting additional pressure on district budgets.
- X. Amendment 2 alters seven sections of the Constitution of Kentucky, including a prohibition on the use of public funds for religious schools and the allowance of special legislation targeting communities.

*The Board of Directors of the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative is made up of Superintendents representing the following member districts: Anchorage Independent, Bullitt County, Carroll County, Eminence Independent, Frankfort Independent, Gallatin County, Grant County, Henry County, Jefferson County, Oldham County, Owen County, Shelby County, Spencer County, and Trimble County*