

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the School District Consolidation
2 Task Force.

3 WHEREAS, a report presented by the Office of Education Accountability to the
4 Education Assessment and Accountability Subcommittee in October 2023 found that
5 small school districts experience challenges related to efficiencies of scale that are
6 beyond administrators' control and may negatively affect student achievement; and

7 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is responsible for providing for an efficient
8 system of common schools; and

9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly, in fulfillment of its obligations, wishes to
10 consider the impact of consolidating Kentucky school districts to eliminate any school
11 district with fewer than 500 students to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of
12 Kentucky's common school system;

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
15 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

16 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the School
17 District Consolidation Task Force to:

18 (1) Review publications, reports, and analyses of school governance relating to
19 district size, the efficiency of districts, and the effects of size on student outcomes,
20 including but not limited to the report from the Office of Education Accountability on
21 school district efficiency and effectiveness and previous Kentucky Department of
22 Education management reports;

23 (2) Hear testimony from statewide education entities with experience in research
24 on and expertise in education organizational structures, policies, governance, and the
25 impact of school district size on efficiency and effectiveness;

26 (3) Hear testimony from parents, teachers, school administrators, and members of
27 school councils and local boards of districts with an enrollment of fewer than 500

1 students on the strengths and weaknesses of existing governing structures and possible
2 methods of school district consolidation as a strategy to enhance efficiency and
3 effectiveness;

4 (4) Review relevant past performance audits, correction plans, and other analyses
5 of school districts with enrollment of fewer than 500 students and assess the current per
6 pupil costs and effectiveness of providing education in those school districts;

7 (5) Review how other states have consolidated small school districts and the
8 benefits and challenges of consolidation; and

9 (6) Develop and submit any recommendations and changes the task force may
10 adopt relating to the school districts with enrollment of fewer than 500 students and their
11 governance and administration and how to better ensure the efficient and effective
12 organization of the Commonwealth's school districts to the Legislative Research
13 Commission by December 1, 2024.

14 ➔Section 2. (1) The School District Consolidation Task Force shall be
15 composed of the following members:

16 (a) Two members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker
17 of the House, one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;

18 (b) Two members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate,
19 one of whom shall be designated to serve as co-chair;

20 (c) One member of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Minority
21 Floor Leader of the House;

22 (d) One member of the Senate to be appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of
23 the Senate;

24 (e) The commissioner of the Department of Education, or designee; and

25 (f) To be appointed by the Legislative Research Commission:

26 1. At least one member that is a parent of a child enrolled in a school district
27 with fewer than 500 students, who is not a current employee of the school district and has

1 competency and experience or knowledge in the field of education;

2 2. At least one member with the experience in finance, management, and school
3 district operation; and

4 3. At least one member who is a certified teacher currently employed as a
5 classroom teacher in a school district with enrollment of fewer than 500 students who has
6 at least five years of experience.

7 (2) Final membership of the task force is subject to the consideration and
8 approval of the Legislative Research Commission.

9 ➔Section 3. The School District Consolidation Task Force shall meet as
10 necessary during the 2024 Interim of the General Assembly. The task force shall submit
11 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
12 appropriate committee or committees by December 1, 2024.

13 ➔Section 4. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the
14 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the
15 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to
16 designate a study completion date.