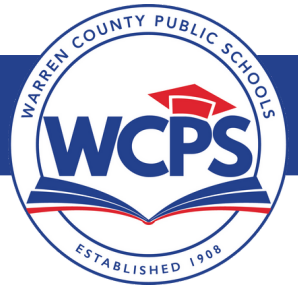


Golden Achievement



Investing in Our Future

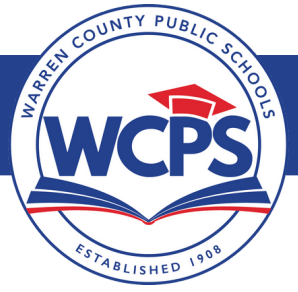
Background

The Warren County Public Schools district is the fourth largest school district in Kentucky with 18,000 (+) students and 3,000 (+) employees. Our families speak 102 different languages from 90 different birth countries. We have 15 elementary schools, four middle schools, four high schools and five alternative schools.

We are not immune to the **critical** workforce shortage affecting the education profession across our nation. During the Kentucky legislative session, key decisions were being made about how best to address our workforce shortage, directly attributable to more than 15 years of significant underfunding of public school education in Kentucky.



Research



Investing in Our Future

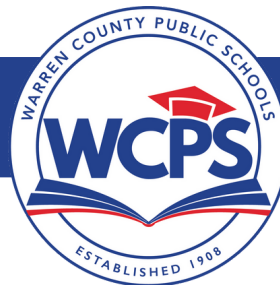
According to the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, the most recent data reflects that the minimum LIVING WAGE in Kentucky stands at approximately \$49,000 and the average salary for new teachers in Warren County Public Schools is \$42,000.

Kentucky teachers, who play an invaluable role in shaping young minds, earn an average of 25% less than other college-educated professionals.

Despite a remarkable 55% increase in Kentucky's general fund since 2008, funding for public schools has grown by less than 10%.

In the past 15 years, funding dynamics have shifted significantly with our local taxpayers now funding the majority of the expense to educate our students: 60% of our funding came from the state back in 2008 and now fast forward 15 years and only 46% of our funding is coming from the state with local taxpayers picking up 54%.

Research



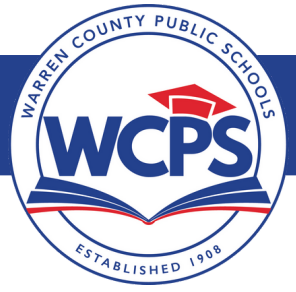
Investing in Our Future

In addition to this shift in funding, we have not received the statutory requirement of full funding for Pupil Transportation from our legislature since 2005. This has resulted in a net loss of tens of millions of dollars to our district to cover transportation expenses.

If the legislature provided SEEK funding at the 2008 level during the last budget cycle alone, while also fully funding pupil transportation, we would have had an additional \$29,000,000 for the CURRENT 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR.

We knew something had to be done during the legislative session since lawmakers were looking at the budget and aside from private meetings, we launched a public campaign to educate our community, business leaders and our families. We decided to use the facts along with personal testimonials to tell the stories of our faculty and staff members.

Planning/Implementation



Investing in Our Future

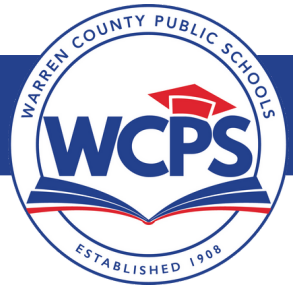
Planning:

We developed a two-part video series using this information featuring several certified and classified educators struggling to make ends meet. We used a variety of employees from bus drivers, instructional assistants and certified teachers, all in various stages of their careers. They discuss their personal stories, how they may not be able to stay in the education profession if wages do not improve, and their love for their jobs and the children they serve. We also included facts from our superintendent. At the end is a call to action with contact information for our state lawmakers.

Implementation:

We released the video to our employees, on social media and held two press conferences with local, regional and statewide media to inform the greater community. We also released several shorter videos on social media and shared the media stories to increase awareness.

Evaluation

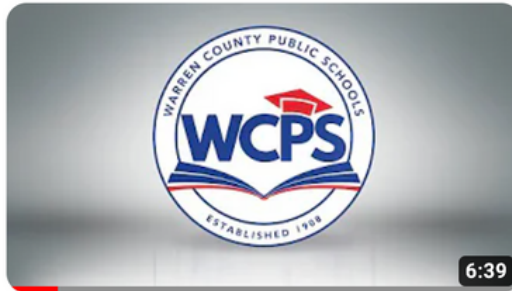


Investing in Our Future

Our videos received significant attention; Part 1 received nearly two million views and Part 2 received nearly 1,000 views on YouTube! That's compared to our third most popular video which has 400 views. When uploaded directly to Facebook, Part 1 received nearly 4 million views and Part 2 received nearly 750 views.



WCPS 2024 Legislative Session Part 2
928 views • 2 months ago



WCPS 2024 Legislative Session Part 1
1.9K views • 2 months ago



Warren County Public Schools

Published by Lauren Hanson
Thurmond · January 31 ·

"I love helping those kids who can't necessarily help themselves. I love advocating for kids who can..."

[See more](#)



2 743



Warren County Public Schools

Published by Lauren Hanson
Thurmond · January 30 ·

WCPS' response to inadequate funding for public school education

"I know that there's a sentiment that you don't do it for the money, which is absolutely true... but at the same time it goes back to if I can't take care of myself, how am I going to take care of them?"

Educational leaders across the state of Kentucky are sharing their concerns about inadequate funding for public school education and its impact on students, faculty and staff. Click the video to watch Part 1 of our two-part video series with WCPS' response and hear from a few of our employees.

[See less](#)

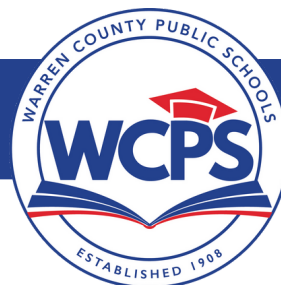


3 3.9K

Our local newspaper even wrote an editorial calling for additional funding for education. The full article can be read [here](#).

Other districts and educational cooperatives also followed our lead and released their own videos.

Supportive Materials



Warren County Public Schools
Published by Lauren Hanson Thurmond · January 30 ·

"I know that there's a sentiment that you don't do it for the money, which is absolutely true... but at the same time it goes back to if I can't take care of myself, how am I going to take care of them?"

ICYMI... Educational leaders across the state of Kentucky are sharing their concerns about inadequate funding for public school education and its impact on students, faculty and staff. Click the video to watch Part 1 of our two-part video series with WCPS' response and hear fr...



[Video Part 1 \(linked\)](#)

Warren County Public Schools
Published by Lauren Hanson Thurmond · January 31 ·

"I love helping those kids who can't necessarily help themselves. I love advocating for kids who can't advocate for themselves. I don't want to have to leave. I don't want to have to quit teaching, but eventually, if things don't change, that will probably become my reality because, at this point, it's not feasible to live on what I get paid."

Educational leaders across the Commonwealth are sharing their concerns about inadequate funding for public education and its impact on students, faculty and staff members. Click the video to watch Part 2 of our series with WCPS' response and hear more from a few of our employees.



[Video Part 2 \(linked\)](#)

Media Stories (links included)

Warren County Public Schools
Published by Lauren Hanson Thurmond · February 18 ·

Thank you to WBKO News for sharing our story as educational leaders across the Commonwealth are sharing their concerns about inadequate funding for public education and its impact on students, faculty and staff members. More here <https://bit.ly/3uzt2C> #PreschooltoProfession #BigDistrictBigOpportunities



WBKO.COM
WCPS calls for general assembly to edit budget, amid passing of House Bill 6
WCPS has called on legislators to make changes to House Bill 6. The Bill is awaiting approv...

[WBKO Story](#)

Warren County Public Schools
Published by Lauren Hanson Thurmond · February 15 ·

Thank you to KET - Kentucky Educational Television for sharing our story as educational leaders across the Commonwealth are sharing their concerns about inadequate funding for public education and its impact on students, faculty and staff members. The story is at 5:00 <https://bit.ly/3UJebwB> #PreschooltoProfession #BigDistrictBigOpportunities



[Kentucky Educational Television \(hits at 5:00\)](#)

Warren County Public Schools
Published by Lauren Hanson Thurmond · 4d ·

"I would love to teach until I retire, but realistically, it's probably not gonna happen and that is sad for me because I love what I do. I love my kids." WCPS teachers discuss their passion for teaching and the need for higher pay. Story <https://bit.ly/4agrcCK> via WBKO News #PreschooltoProfession #BigDistrictBigOpportunities



WBKO.COM
WCPS teachers discuss passion for teaching, need for higher pay
But with groceries, rent, childcare, and other bills, Rager said she may not be able to do it f...

[WBKO Story #2](#)



Rob Clayton, superintendent of Warren County Public Schools, speaks to the media Monday about the Kentucky General Assembly's budget and the state of public education.

[Bowling Green Daily News Story](#)