

SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE

01

Whole Child & Community Centered Approach to Education

Schools are and have always been the life-blood of our communities. This is more true now than ever. Schools are not only tasked with meeting the learning needs of Louisville's kids, but also the human needs of Louisville's kids. JCPS needs to be a place where kids and their families experience community, a sense of belonging, and can access consistent nutrition and other resources. Wrap around supports, Youth Service Centers, community hubs, and community schools are essential to supporting the whole child. We are stronger with systems that are proactive rather than punitive and support growth and community repair when mistakes are made. All kids should be adequately fed, housed, and healthy. Louisville deserves a community working together to uplift our future.

04

More Learning. Less Testing.

Assessment can be a powerful tool for teaching and learning. Too much time is spent preparing for and taking high-stakes tests that communicate little about what kids know and can do impeding rather than facilitating learning. Our kids deserve authentic, just assessments, created by the educators who know them best, that capture and communicate future-ready skills. Performance tasks, portfolios, real-world experiences, student-created projects, and student-led conferences are better indicators of skills and competencies and often act as learning experiences themselves. It is common sense that the educators closest to the kids, not corporations, are best positioned to design and interpret these assessments. Louisville deserves a more accurate picture of what our kids know and can do and schools that dedicate their time to learning.

02

Well-Rounded Learning Rooted In Our Local & Global Community

The best learning occurs when our kids' passions and talents intersect with our community's gifts and needs. All kids deserve to explore, grow, and creatively develop through meaningful, authentic deeper learning experiences in a broad, rich environment that uses academics, arts, music, language, field trips, service learning, and trades to develop talent, ignite curiosity, and foster global citizenship. Kids need to make decisions alongside educators about their learning and their futures. Learning begins with respect for our kids as individuals and engagement with their backgrounds, perspectives, and of our diverse communities locally and far away. Louisville is better when we equip our public schools to be the primary talent development for an engaged global citizenry and when kids have agency to access a well-rounded education.

03

Smaller Class Sizes

All kids deserve a student-to-teacher ratio that facilitates vibrant and meaningful learning experiences and allows kids to build positive relationships with educators and peers. Smaller class sizes allow time for more focused learning experiences and allow educators to design instruction that meets the needs of the kids in their room. Smaller class sizes afford educators the ability to build relationships with kids and families, and give kids more meaningful feedback and attention. Smaller classes give kids the space to learn.

05

Safe & Vibrant Place to Learn & Work

Learning can only occur when a person's most basic needs of feeling safe and secure are being met. Louisville deserves fully staffed, modern schools that are clean, healthy, vibrant, and welcoming. Our schools should be state-of-the-art facilities with up-to-date aesthetics that meet modern safety standards and offer dynamic spaces for learning. Kids and educators deserve policies and practices that make them safe from physical, mental, and emotional harm and support them to grow, make mistakes, and take risks.





06 Technology That Empowers Learning And Growth For All

Kids need to learn about and learn with the technology that is shaping our world. Our schools should have access to state-of-the-art technology. Our kids and educators need equitable access to the software, hardware, instruction, and coaching that support their development as critical consumers and ethical creators of our future. Our district should be agile in how we plan and equip classrooms with technology, and our schools and educators should have flexibility to adapt their usage to meet the needs of their students. We also know the highest quality educators are humans and that our kids must develop as healthy and whole people. Our use of technology should magnify human power, increase human connection, honor our natural resources, and center our humanity, not replace it.

07 The Time & Support To Teach

Kids have more complex needs now than ever before. At the same time, educators are being tasked with more and more work that does not support the growth and development of our kids. Protecting and increasing teachers' planning time is not a luxury—it's a necessity for high-quality education. When we give teachers the protected time and trust they deserve, our kids and schools thrive. Educators need access to high quality, hands-on learning and multiple resources that equip them to meet the diverse and changing needs of kids. We must reduce unnecessary compliance burdens so educators can focus on what matters most: teaching, connecting with kids, and improving their craft. Louisville deserves educators who are given the time and resources needed to support the kids in their classrooms.

08 Respect & Pay Educators As Professionals

Our community is best served when the level of respect and support for the education profession reflects the level of care and concern we have for our kids and community. Recruiting and retaining a highly trained and diverse workforce requires us to offer thriving wages, benefits, and agency that reflect the experience and expertise educators bring. Educators should be respected to make decisions and treated as autonomous designers, not simply implementers, of learning experiences and environments. Educators need unique and fulfilling job advancement and growth opportunities that make a career. The respect, pay, and opportunities for growth and advancement afforded to educators must also be extended to all people who work in schools and support our students. Louisville deserves schools that are fully staffed with the most highly skilled, highly trained, and best compensated professionals in the country.

09 Collaborative, Democratic Decision Making

All kids deserve voice in their education. Schools should meaningfully include and be guided by the voices and choices of the parents, educators, and communities who are closest to kids. This is best achieved by a robust collaborative infrastructure that includes many inclusive and democratic decision-making committees throughout the district. The best solutions are found when we all work together. It is vital that our school district and state government are committed to fully funded public schools governed by a democratically elected school board held accountable by the public. Louisville deserves schools that include all stakeholders in decisions, because when we work together, we do better for kids.

10 Full Investment For A Thriving Future

Resourcing Louisville's kids with everything they need costs money, and our kids are worth it. Our most under-resourced communities deserve equitable access to a high-quality public education. Full funding means that our district is able to welcome kids and employees into safe and vibrant places to learn and work. It provides all kids with a whole child and community-centered approach to education. Full funding must include well-rounded learning experiences and smaller class sizes. It should be focused more on learning than testing and supported by equitable access to technology that empowers learning and growth for all. Full funding means treating and paying employees as professionals with the time and support to teach in an inclusive community where decisions are made democratically and collaboratively. Louisville deserves fully funded public schools. It is our best hope for creating the schools and the future our community needs and that our kids deserve.

