



OHIO VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE

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## **Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) Launches Educational Awareness Campaign as Superintendents Speak about the Danger of Amendment 2**

**[Louisville, KY]** – The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) launched an educational awareness campaign on Oct. 17 to inform the public about the potential effects of Amendment 2, which will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. The OVEC region serves 14 member school districts, consisting of over 230 schools, 20,000 educators, and 150,000 students.

In addition, OVEC’s Board of Directors [approved a resolution](#) at their Sept. 25 meeting, strongly urging “the communities and regions we serve to know the effects of Amendment 2 on public education.”

During the 2024 legislative session, Kentucky lawmakers passed House Bill 2, leading to the inclusion of Amendment 2 on the ballot, which would amend the Constitution of Kentucky to enable the General Assembly to provide financial support to private schools through public funding.

Bullitt County Schools Superintendent Jesse Bacon, who serves as chair of the OVEC Board of Directors, said on Thursday the stakes cannot be any higher.

“Public schools in Kentucky serve over 600,000 students and are the foundation of our educational system, striving to provide every child, regardless of their background or zip code, with the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed,” Bacon said. “Amendment 2 puts all of this at risk. The consequences of redirecting funds toward private school vouchers would be catastrophic for our public schools and the communities that depend on them. This is a reality we cannot ignore.”

Through its educational campaign, OVEC seeks to inform families, educators, and residents about the potential shifts in funding, transparency, and accountability, said Jason Adkins, Chief Executive Officer of OVEC.

“The resolution and our education campaign aims to provide the community with information on how the amendment will influence public education funding and most importantly, student outcomes,” Adkins said. “No one understands public education in our districts better than our superintendents.”

Casey Jaynes, superintendent of Carroll County Schools, said “public education in Kentucky is at a crossroads.”

“It’s essential to raise awareness about what’s at stake in this election,” he said. “A great deal of money is being spent on this issue, with misleading claims like raising teacher pay or offering better options to low-income families. Voters need the facts before heading to the polls.”

Jaynes added: “There are so many unknowns that come with this amendment. It gives politicians in Frankfort the power to fund private schools unchecked while voiding seven sections of the Constitution – a broad and dangerous move.”

Jim Masters, superintendent of Henry County Schools, said instead of pulling resources from public schools, “we should focus on investing in strategies proven to improve student outcomes.”

“We could use those funds to reduce class sizes, giving students the individual attention they need to thrive,” Masters said. “Additionally, we could address the teacher shortage by investing in higher teacher pay.”

“Above all, we must stay committed to all Kentucky students, regardless of their economic background or zip code,” Masters said. “Voucher programs only benefit families who already have the means to afford private education, while leaving the majority of students behind.”

Todd Neace, superintendent of Trimble County Schools, said changing the Kentucky Constitution is not something to take lightly.

“If we choose this path, we must fully grasp what we are signing up for,” Neace said. “The end result is that our schools will become more segregated and we’ll face growing inequality. Every year, public schools are asked to stretch resources even further. If this amendment passes, vouchers will only deepen that strain.”

The resolution was approved by the OVEC board, which is comprised of superintendents of 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.

It includes ten areas of concern:

- 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.
- Amendment 2 could allow Kentucky to adopt vouchers, education savings accounts, and scholarship tax credits, which have reduced public education funding in other states.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 in funding annually and have a reduction of up to 1,470 educators.**
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.