



NEW LEXINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

P. O. Box 630, 1605-A Airport Road

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Casey Coffey, Superintendent

March 18, 2015


Dear Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in regards to the future of school funding decisions for New Lexington City Schools. I am extremely concerned about the barometer that is being placed on our school district in the name of estimated dollars needed to fund our school district based on the current proposed formula. New Lexington City Schools has participated in every recommended or required program by the State in regards to Accountability and Financial benchmarks. New Lexington City Schools has been a part of multiple initiatives that were designed to parallel student performance for low funded and economically disadvantaged identified districts. These initiatives were pursued in the name of sustaining programming for the students of Appalachia of who historically have not received adequate or equitable funding to provide such programming. Staff, Students, and Families have jumped on board with every State Initiative available in order to insure the most opportunities for our culture.

Please reconsider how this funding is allocated in order to adequately fund the education for our children. It is time to recognize the problem and provide a solution for our school district and other school districts of like demographics in Appalachia. It is my understanding the Governor and his Budget Director are calling for New Lexington City Schools to audit our General Fund balances to offset the State Funding cuts. This is an extremely offensive and disrespectful solution. The proposed formula utilizes factors (median income or average valuation divided by enrollment) that doesn't accurately portray a District's need for State Funding. Therefore you have poorer Districts receiving cuts and richer Districts receiving increases.

When I think about communicating to our public in regards to a 5-year Forecast, I feel like a thief. As most like districts we have cut the heart out of the district and redesigned infrastructure to survive. New Lexington City Schools is approximately 80% Economically Disadvantaged according to state reporting data. New Lexington City Schools is currently at the 20 mil floor and a mil generates approximately \$150,000. New Lexington is in Perry County of which has 7.5 million dollars in un-collected property taxes, 67% of 1.5 million of this would be applicable to New Lexington City Schools. According to State Superintendent Richard Ross school funding will remain as recently reported and the State will cut New Lexington City Schools at the tune of \$350,000 over the next two years. This will devastate our school district and the entire learning community of New Lexington City Schools.

Sincerely,


Casey Coffey
Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the New Lexington City School District is to promote the highest level of educational achievement, maximizing all students' potential, while challenging them to become life-long learners and socially responsible citizens.