

Scholarship tax credits expand education

BY GLENDA BEVIN
FIRST LADY

During the next few weeks, our General Assembly has a remarkable opportunity to give thousands of Kentucky children a new path to success by voting in favor of two bills that will help create a scholarship tax credit program. House Bill 205 and Senate Bill 118 will go a long way towards helping children in the Commonwealth reach their dreams.

Families like the Hendersons in South Louisville know all too well the power this scholarship tax program would have in transforming the futures of Kentucky's children.

In 2015, Daniel and Denise Henderson decided to become foster parents of medically fragile children and those with a history of trauma. Not long after they were approved in

the summer of 2016, they welcomed a set of three elementary school-age siblings to their home — a 10-year-old girl (Elle) and her two brothers, ages eight and five. The two oldest were victims of trafficking, and all had sustained trauma.

The Hendersons provided the stable, happy and safe home environment the children needed, and were able to help them focus on school. Elle struggled in her fifth grade class at the time, and as they discussed middle school options, Denise and Daniel were surprised when Elle told them she wanted to attend a private school.

While they wanted to support her choice, being a child in foster care put significant limits on Elle's education options. Elle asked to talk to the judge herself, and after she did, the judge granted her permission to at-

tend the school of her choice. Denise and Daniel stretched their resources to pay the tuition for the private school, and Elle flourished.

By the time the next school year came around, the Hendersons had adopted the sibling group — and Elle's younger brothers, Shawn and Josh, wanted to follow their sister to private school. The school made Elle feel safe and loved, and though the Hendersons were convinced the school was the best fit for their children, tuition for three children was unattainable.

After researching their options, they learned about School Choice Scholarships, an organization in Louisville that grants low-income students the opportunity to attend the school of their choice. The Hendersons were awarded scholarships, and the children were over-

joyed to be able to attend the school they chose together.

The Henderson kids are thriving in a school that fits them, but thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — of children across the Commonwealth do not have access to that kind of opportunity. In Louisville alone, School Choice Scholarships currently has more than 6,000 children on its waiting list.

Through no fault of their own, many minority and low-income families disproportionately find themselves in the lowest performing schools. Countless parents need access to schools that are specifically suited to their children's educational and emotional needs but either cannot not afford private school tuition or are unable to move to another school district.

Simply put: school choice already exists in Kentucky, but it is cur-

rently only available to the wealthy.

As a mother of nine, I know all children have unique strengths, challenges and interests. A one-size-fits-all approach to parenting does not work well. The same is true for education: families need options.

HB 205 and SB 118 propose to create a scholarship tax program that would help close this significant gap in opportunity. The program encourages individuals and businesses to donate to non-profit organizations, like School Choice Scholarships, that assist lower income families with tuition for the non-public schools of their choice.

Through this program, donors would receive a 95 percent tax credit for their donation. For every \$100

donated, a \$95 tax credit is received. No public funds are involved, as private donations alone are used to increase parental options. Eighteen other states have similar scholarship tax programs in place, making it clear they value the role of the family in education. It is time for Kentucky to do the same!

I am imploring the General Assembly to vote yes on HB 205 and SB 118. Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty, and a zip code should not determine a student's academic success. We cannot continue upholding a status quo that favors only families with means, and a scholarship tax credit policy would be a great step toward improving access to education opportunities for all Kentucky's children.

Buses to be on route for '19-20

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"These buses will have air conditioning," Whitlock said. "These will be the first regular route buses with that option in history of Green County schools. They will be placed in

service on routes where students ride the longest."

In conjunction with the grant, the older buses will be rendered inoperable and sold as scrap at the conclusion of the current school year.

Leftwich says this purchase would not be possible without the assistance of others.

"Green County Schools would like to thank our board members for their commitment to maintaining a modern bus fleet and

Ms. Kelly Lewis with the Division for Air Quality, State Representative Brandon Reed, and State Senator David Givens for their assistance and for making funding for the grant available to our district," Leftwich said.

Drop in '18 state unemployment

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There were 40,745 fewer individuals unemployed in 2018 than 10 years ago, when the economy was in recession.

In 2018, the estimated number of Kentuckians in the civilian labor force was 2,061,622. This is up 7,865 from the 2,053,757 recorded in 2017, and up 30,884 from 10 years ago when the civilian labor force was 2,030,738.

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based on estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. The survey is designed to measure trends in the number of people working. It includes jobs in agriculture and individuals who are self-employed.

Annual unemployment rates declined in 44 states from 2017 to 2018. The unemployment rates increased in three states: Colorado, Oregon and West Virginia, and was unchanged in Arkansas, Hawaii and Maine.

Kentucky's unemployment rate for 2018 was higher than 38 states and lower than nine states. Kentucky's rate was tied with Illinois and Pennsylvania. Alaska had the highest unemployment rate in 2018 at 6.6 percent, while Hawaii had the lowest rate at 2.4 percent. Among its surrounding states, Kentucky's unemployment rate was lower than Ohio and West Virginia, higher than Indiana, Missouri, Virginia and Tennessee, and the same as Illinois.

In a separate federal survey of business establishments that excludes jobs in agriculture and people

who are self-employed, Kentucky's nonfarm payroll in 2018 increased by 10,500 or 0.5 percent to 1,931,600 employees.

Nonfarm data is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics program. According to this survey, six of Kentucky's 11 major nonfarm job sectors listed in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) showed employment growth in 2018, while five reported losses.

According to the annual employment data, the educational and health services sector rose by 5,500 jobs in 2018, and 31,200 or 12.6 percent over the past 10 years. This growth is driven by hiring in the healthcare and social assistance subsector, which added 4,800 jobs in 2018. Within this sector, health care and social assistance industries, such as hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and social assistance businesses expanded by 33,000 jobs for a 15.3 percent gain in the past 10 years.

"Kentucky's health and social services subsector has consistently grown over the years," said Clark. "A large portion of these gains occurred among employers providing ambulatory care and social services."

Educational services in this sector include employees at private elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools along with other establishments that provide instruction and training. Employment in educational services gained 800 jobs, an increase of 2.8

percent. This subsector has declined by 1,700 jobs over the last 10 years.

Kentucky's trade, transportation and utilities sector jumped by 4,400 jobs or 1.1 percent in 2018. During the past 10 years, the number of jobs increased by 23,200 jobs or 6.1 percent. This is Kentucky's largest sector based on employment with a total of 403,800 jobs or 21 percent of Kentucky's nonfarm employment. Within the sector, wholesale trade gained 1,000 jobs from 2017 to 2018, retail trade lost 800 positions, and businesses in transportation, warehousing and utilities added 4,300 jobs.

Kentucky's manufacturing sector expanded by 1,600 jobs or 0.6 percent in 2018 for a total of 252,100 positions. Over the past 10 years, manufacturing employment is up 6,900 jobs, a gain of 2.8 percent. Durable manufacturing added approximately 1,300 jobs or 0.8 percent from 2017 to 2018 and non-durable manufacturing added 500 jobs or 0.6 percent.

Employment in the state's professional and business services added 1,300 jobs in 2018, an increase of 0.6 percent. This sector includes professional, scientific and technical services, management of companies, and administrative and support management. In the last 10 years, the sector has expanded by 32,600 jobs or 17.6 percent. This category also includes temporary help agencies that provide workers to other businesses on a contractual basis.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass, giant foxtail, Canada thistle, nodding thistle, common teasel, multiflora rose, amur honeysuckle, poison hemlock, mare's tail, Japanese knotweed, and kudzu.

Property owners actively treating noxious weeds on private property may submit an application to request the eradication of nuisance weeds found on adjacent state-owned right of way. Contact your local district highway office to request an application. Visit transportation.ky.gov/contactus.

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is given hereby that

GREEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

will accept bids for the lawn care/maintenance of the Green County Judicial Center for:

MOWING AND WEED-EATING

According to the requirements set forth by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the office of Honorable John H Frank, Green County Judge/Executive, and described in general as follows:

General lawn maintenance for the Green County Judicial Center. Provide all materials and labor required to complete the work.

Work includes, but is not limited to:

- Mowing complete grass covered area around the Green County Judicial Center.
- Trimming/weed-eating and removing cut grass from the premises.
- Preserving the landscape and mulch.

The format of such sealed bid must indicate a bid price for each mowing/trimming of the entire lawn area at the premises. Proof of \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance policy must be provided by the winning bidder prior to signing a contract. The sealed bid must reflect a start date no later than Monday, April 1, 2019.

Sealed bids must be received at the Office of County Judge/Executive John H Frank, Green County Courthouse, 203 W. Court Street, Greensburg, KY 42743 by 4 p.m. Central Time on Friday, March 15, 2019. Bids received after that time will not be accepted. **Bids will be opened during the March 21, 2019 Regular Called Fiscal Court Meeting, 5 p.m. Central Time.** Interested parties are invited to attend.

The County shall award the contract to the lowest and best bidder. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in any bid received and in the bidding process.

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Auction

Sat., March 9 • 10 a.m. ET

Owners: Dorothy L. Lowe

Auction conducted 1050 Gumm Rd., Columbia KY

Real Estate

Offering 7.5 acres in two tracts.

Tract #1 consisting of 1.5 acres with a 3-bedroom and 2-bath manufactured home. Tract #2 consisting of 6 M/L acres and shed.

Directions - From Campbellsville take HWY 70 Liberty Rd, 4.2 miles and turn right onto HWY 76 Knifley Rd and go approximately 4.5 miles and turn right onto Gumm rd, go approximately 1 mile to Auction site, approximately only 3.5 miles from Pikes Ridge recreational areas. Signs posted.

Terms - 10% non refundable earnest money down balance on or before Tuesday April 9th, 2019. Possession will be given with delivery of deed. 2019 Real Estate taxes paid by buyers. A 10% buyer's premium will be added to the winning bid on real estate. Property is being offered "As Is Where Is" all faults and no contingents". All announcements made from Auction block day of the Auction will take precedence over prior advertising either written or oral. The information in the advertisement is believed to be accurate; however no liability for its accuracy, errors or omissions is assumed. Bidders/buyers are advised to verify the information for their satisfaction and conduct any inspection and bid by their judgment, this includes any above or below ground inspections and any title inspections.

Auctioneer Comments - Dile Realty & Auction Co. appreciates the opportunity to work for Dorothy L. Lowe and offer this property to the public at Auction. If you are in the market for a home or tract of land don't fail to attend this Auction Saturday March 9, 2019 at 10 a.m. ET. See you there!

For more information call Jerry Dile at 270-932-7355 or 270-299-5010 or logon to www.dilerealty.greensburgky.net or www.auctionzip.com
Watch the Record-Herald for more land, homes and farm equipment auctions coming up.

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