



Dear Members of the Kentucky General Assembly,

We at the Kentucky Center for Mathematics (KCM) are quite concerned about the proposed removal of KCM funding for the 2018 budget biennium. As the children of Kentucky can seldom speak on their own behalf, we respectfully request that you take a moment to understand the work of our center and its impact on Kentucky children when considering this important and lasting policy decision.

We believe that **mathematics should never stand in the way of children realizing their dreams** and we are making amazing progress in assuring this never happens. KCM professional learning now impacts up to 1,500 teachers each year and has served teachers, students and families in 119 out of 120 counties in Kentucky. The **tens of thousands of children impacted each year by the KCM achieve proficiency growth and novice reduction improvement that greatly surpasses statewide averages.** Our programs are especially impactful among children from traditionally underrepresented populations where our ongoing systemic support can vastly increase the likelihood of development beyond a novice level understanding of math. A summary of KCM impact is available at <http://www.kymath.org>.

KCM's success is achieved by connecting with education stakeholders across the Commonwealth to impact the complete mathematics education experience of Kentucky children as they transition across grades and schools. Through professional learning, at-school coaching visits and educational resources, **KCM provides continuing systemic support for teachers, students, families and administrators.** Coordinating resources and experiences to create systemic change, the KCM has impacted hundreds of schools throughout Kentucky so that:

- Teachers collectively create and sustain a schoolwide culture that engages all students and helps them better understand and ultimately master mathematics.
- Teachers master the fundamental practices needed to assure that mathematics is a vehicle for their students to develop the problem solving skills required for college and career readiness.
- Teachers in earlier grades connect with content and teachers in later grades to assure that their students develop the skills for future success.
- Teachers in later grades connect with content and teachers in earlier grades to assure they build on and reinforce existing fundamental skills.

While we understand that difficult budget decisions must be made, we and the many students, teachers, families and administrators impacted by our work contend that the **KCM is a small investment that pays huge dividends for Kentucky children.** Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like any further information.

Sincerely,

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