



Take a Minute or Two to Keep Kentucky Learning
Template for Messages to Legislators
in Video Testimonials, Postcards, Emails and Phone Calls

Most importantly, be creative and use your own words and talk about your own students and school. We are not aiming for an Oscar or Pulitzer. We're aiming for short, heartfelt stories by legislators' constituents.

1. My name is _____.
2. I (teach, drive a bus, am a school librarian, etc.) at _____ school and live in _____.
3. (Optional) My message is for Representative _____ and Senator _____ . (Find the information on www.kea.org. Include all legislators from both where you work and where you live.)
4. I ask you to please keep Kentucky learning and do not cut funding for our children's education.
5. Tell a short story about either how budget cuts have already affected your students or how more budget cuts will affect your students. Be specific. Do not use individual students' names (to protect their privacy).
6. Thank you for your support for our children and our schools. Please help me keep Kentucky learning.



Sample Messages to Legislators in Video Testimonials, Postcards, Emails and Phone Calls

Sample #1

My name is Mary Ann Blankenship. I teach at Lexington Junior High and live in Midway. I ask Representative Crenshaw, Representative Rollins and Senator Carroll to keep Kentucky learning. Please do not cut funding for our children's education.

In my 8th grade class I have three students who have problems paying attention, so they don't always get their work done while they are in class. Since we have had to cut back our extended school services program, these students don't get the time and individual help they need. Please restore funding for ESS and help me keep Kentucky learning. Thank you for your support for our children and our schools. (40 seconds)

Sample #2

My name is Jim Johnson. I teach at East Carter County High School and live in Grayson. My message is for Representative Webb and Senator Borders. I ask you to keep Kentucky learning. Please do not cut funding for our children's education.

We were supposed to get new math books this year, but state funding cutbacks have prevented that from happening. My old books are showing wear, and I no longer have enough for all students. Some of the content is outdated. This makes it harder for me to reach every one of my 145 students. Please restore funding for textbooks and help me keep Kentucky learning. Thank you for your support for our children and our schools. (40 seconds)

Sample #3

My name is Elizabeth Caudill. I teach at Earlington Elementary School and live in Earlington. My message is for Representative Ballard and Senator Rhoads. I ask you to please keep Kentucky learning. Please do not cut funding for our children's education.

In my kindergarten class, I can tell a huge difference between my students who have been to pre-school and those who have not. Not only do they know their letters, numbers and colors, but they know how to line up, go to the bathroom by themselves, and eat in the school cafeteria. All this means I can spend more of my time making sure they begin to learn to read. Please provide funding so every Kentucky child can have pre-school. Thank you for your support for our children and our schools. Help me keep Kentucky learning. (50 seconds)

Sample #4

My name is Bill Duncan. I drive a bus to five elementary schools in McCracken County and live in Lone Oak. My message is for Representative Housman and Senator Leeper. Please keep Kentucky learning and do not cut funding for our children's education.

I drive a bus for such great students. All of them have special needs. Right now I work with a bus monitor who helps me with the students. If our budget is cut any more, I'm afraid that the bus monitor's position will be cut. If that happens my bus monitor will have a terrible time finding another job in these hard times. Even worse, I'm afraid my students won't be as safe and happy and won't be able to learn as much. Please help me keep Kentucky learning and do not cut funding for our children's education. Thank you for your support. (45 seconds)

Sample #5

My name is Chip Brown. I'm the librarian at Bedford Elementary School and live in Milton. My message is for Representative Rand and Senator Harris. Please keep Kentucky learning. Please help me continue to improve our students' reading.

Every year I look forward to the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference. KTLTC has always provided me with lots of good ideas about how to use technology to help get students reading who might not otherwise have been excited about books. In a small school district like ours, it's hard to get cutting edge ideas for helping students unless we can go to state or national conferences. This year the state has cancelled the KTLTC because of the budget cuts. Our district has also cut back on professional development. These cuts mean our students won't learn as much. Please restore the funding for professional development. Help me keep Kentucky learning. Thank you for your support for our children and schools.

Sample #6

My name is Martina Moore. I'm the mother of an eighth grader at Allen Central Middle School and live in Betsy Layne. My message is for Representative Stumbo, Representative Collins and Senator Turner. Please keep Kentucky learning. Don't cut funding for our children's education.

My daughter is one of those kids who is hard to settle down. Despite everything I have done and her teachers have done, she sometimes gets in fights. Last year when she was in seventh grade the school had an in-school suspension program where she could go to calm down and avoid getting in fights. This year the program has been cut out because of state budget cuts. She's having a lot more problems without the ISS program. Please restore funding for school safety. Please help me keep Kentucky learning.