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Louisville, Kentucky

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 | COURIERJOURNAL.COM

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Special education cuts revised

JCPS board approves plan that lessens some reductions, eliminates others

Kathryn Muchnick
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Jefferson County Board of Education approved cuts to the district's special education department on March 31, two weeks after the board rejected a previous plan.

The new plan scales back many of the initially proposed changes, elimi-

nating day reductions entirely for some staff and reducing them by a lesser amount for others. The reorganization is part of Jefferson County Public Schools' efforts to address a \$188 million deficit in the 2026-27 budget.

Under the new organizational charts — the third set discussed in recent weeks — about 100 roles would see their days reduced.

The changes passed 4-2, with board

member Taylor Everett and Vice-Chair James Craig voting against the motion, saying they needed more evidence of cuts shared between central office and school-based staff.

"I just heard loud and clear from my constituents that we want to share the load among the supervisors, and I know that that hasn't happened, and it's still a disparity between the two groups of union versus non-union," Everett said. "Those are my issues with it, but I do appreciate the work that you've done."

Craig said he was aware of more conversations between the district and stakeholders, following his motion for



Yearwood

Superintendent Brian Yearwood to return to the bargaining table after the last meeting.

"I'm still looking for evidence that we have a collaborative working environment across our workforce. I don't see the evidence yet, but I know that we're working towards that," he said.

Cuts to the special education department will save JCPS about a quarter of a million dollars, Yearwood told reporters.

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Where bourbon, agriculture stand one year later



Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs meant to help U.S. have hit Kentucky hard

Olivia Evans
Louisville Courier Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump declared April 2, 2025, as "Liberation Day," a day in which the president unveiled his "reciprocal tariffs" plan on major trading partners.

The goal of the sweeping tariffs, according to the president, was to revive the domestic manufacturing base, return jobs from foreign countries to the United States, to make goods cheaper for consumers and "Make America wealthy again" — all part of his ongoing effort to usher in the "golden age" of unprecedented economic growth.

"This is one of the most important days in my opinion (in) American history, it's our declaration of economic independence," Trump said during a press conference announcing "Liberation Day."

Across Kentucky, distillers and farmers braced as the global trade uncertainty prompted by the tariffs left many in limbo.

Now, one year later the effects of the "Liberation Day" tariffs are felt most acutely by the state's iconic bourbon industry, which has seen a significant decline in exports, and the state's agricultural industry, which is suffering from a decline in profitability.

"If our export customers in Asia or Latin America

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High court reviewing birthright citizenship

Trump attends hearings; first president to do so

Maureen Gropp, Bart Jansen, Aysha Bagchi and N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court gave a tough — but not dismissive — review of President Donald Trump's effort to redefine who is an American, debating April 1 as Trump added to the historical significance of the case by becoming the first sitting president to attend high court oral arguments.

It is one of the court's biggest cases this term — perhaps in decades.

The executive order Trump signed on his first day back in office to sharply limit automatic citizenship for U.S.-born babies is central to his efforts to crack down on both legal and illegal immigration — a major campaign promise.

Trump's order challenges the long-standing interpretation of a 19th-century constitutional provision guaranteeing birthright citizenship to nearly everyone — and every lower court that reviewed Trump's executive order ruled against it.

Justice Elena Kagan, a liberal, asked Solicitor General John Sauer, the Justice Department's attorney, for his rationale to change more than 125 years of Supreme Court interpreta-

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American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Cecilia Wang speaks outside the Supreme Court on April 1. President Donald Trump attended in person as the court heard a landmark case weighing the constitutionality of his contentious bid to end birthright citizenship. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: President Donald Trump holds a signed executive order on tariffs April 2, 2025, at the White House. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

Jackson Purchase Bourbon MATT STONE/COURIER JOURNAL

Sen. Rand Paul speaks to the media after meeting with business leaders at Greater Louisville Inc. to talk about the potential impact of tariffs May 12, 2025.

JEFF FAUGHENDER/COURIER JOURNAL

Soybean farmer Ryan Bivens holds a sample on his farm in Hodgenville.

SAM UPSHAW JR./COURIER JOURNAL

Inside

U.S. liquor industry hurt by year of Trump tariffs. 7A

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Volume 158 | No. 122
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