

KEA President's Points

January 16, 2019



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,

Last week we completed the first four days of the 30-day regular legislative session. Some major activities took place that you and your colleagues should know. First, [SB 1](#), [SB 3](#) and [SB 8](#) are three pieces of legislation you should read. SB 1 is a school safety bill that was introduced and has bipartisan support. KEA has many questions about some of the details of the bill and will confer with the bill sponsor in the interim to clarify and investigate the impact of this important legislation. SB 3 is the SBDM reform bill. I testified about this bill before the Senate Education Committee and you can read my comments [here](#).

SB 8 is the teacher tribunal reform bill. This bill challenges the due process of teachers and changes the hearing officer from a lay person to an attorney with labor law experience. KEA Positions on these bills: SB 1- TRACK, SB 3 - OPPOSE, SB 8 - OPPOSE.

Last Friday, the Senate President and Speaker of the House held a joint press conference to announce the formation of a new Pension Work Group. They will meet every Tuesday and Thursday as needed at 9:30 a.m. in room 154 of the Capitol Annex. The first meeting of the group occurred yesterday. A very informative PowerPoint about the state of the eight public pension systems can be found [here](#).

This presentation is a great one to share with anyone that has an interest in Kentucky public pensions. All other information and communication to this group can be found [here](#).

The legislature does not go back until Feb. 5, 2019. In the meantime, if you can attend any of the Pension Group meetings on Tuesday or Thursdays please do! We should all be informed about our pension systems and discuss how we as state employees may be impacted by this group's decisions in the future.

Governor Bevin issues emergency regulation restricting access to the Capitol

Many of you have seen reports in the media about "new rules" in the Capitol building. These include restricted access to certain areas and limiting the number of people in the Capitol at one time. This executive order can be found [here](#). After further review, we found that this change in regulation has not yet gone through the required process to become a regulation. Please read [here](#) about how you can participate in the public comment session or submit written comments about this change in regulation. USE YOUR VOICE!

#RED4RIGHTS

Comments needed on Social Studies Standards

The Kentucky Board of Education's second reading of the Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies draft will be held on February 6. The Kentucky Council for Social Studies is hoping you will consider sending a letter that captures your passion for moving social studies standards forward. Please encourage your colleagues, friends, and family to consider weighing in on this issue as well. These social studies standards are the only set of standards written 100 percent by Kentucky teachers. Yet, here we are having to fight to make sure that our KBE understands the needs of social studies through our eyes, not just theirs. Please find below sample letters that you may adapt to your situation. KBE contacts can be found [here](#).

[Letter 1: Standards vs. Curriculum](#)

[Letter 2: Disciplinary Thinking](#)

[Letter 3: KY Representation and Perspective](#)

Help us honor ESPs by contacting Congress today!

Education Support Professionals (ESPs)/Classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas relative to the education community. NEA supports passage of the Recognizing Achievement in Classified School Employees Act (HR 276) award legislation that would provide long overdue recognition for their outstanding contributions to our nation's schools and the students they serve. The legislation directs the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through grade 12. Please click [here](#) to help us make the RISE award a reality.

ESPs--including paraeducators, clerical assistants, school bus drivers, custodians, food service workers, technicians, custodians, school nurses, and security professionals--provide essential services to America's public schools and institutions of higher education. As an integral part of the public education system, ESPs promote student achievement, ensure student safety, and contribute to the establishment and promotion of a positive instructional environment.

Save the Date



JAN 14 - Feb 4	2019 Legislature in Recess, Pension Work Group Meets T & R at 9:30 a.m. Annex Rm 154
JAN 21	MLK Holiday
JAN 23	KEA #DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest Entries due to KEA HQ

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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