

# KEA President's Points

January 23, 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,

This week has been deemed by some as "public school choice" week. Well, I CHOOSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS! We already have school choice in Kentucky. There are private schools, religious schools, home schools, magnet schools, specialized academy programs, and of course public schools.

Why do I choose public schools? I choose to advocate for schools that deny no one, no matter their abilities. I choose to protect and defend the students and educators that attend and serve public schools because they are the definition of our diversity and cultures.

As we also celebrate the birthday of one of our country's greatest African American heroes- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this week, let's remember his words, "*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*" Our public schools matter. Let's all continue to be vigilant in our fight for students and Kentucky public schools; we should not be silent.

## Public Pensions Working Group Continues Meetings

This week TRS continued its presentation and answered lots of questions from legislators. Thursday's agenda includes a presentation by KEA, KASS, KASA, KSBA, and KRTA. If you can be at this meeting tomorrow at 9:30 am ET please do so!

Members and information pertaining to the Public Pensions Working 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 system and discussions about how we as state employees may be impacted by this group's decisions in the future.

## Do you know an outstanding teacher or ESP member that deserves recognition?

Nominate yourself or a colleague to apply for the KEA Teacher or ESP of the Year for award year 2020. Nominees for these two awards need to fill out an application and return to KEA by Feb 15, 2019. Both the Teacher and ESP of the year will be recognized at the 2019 KEA Delegate Assembly and will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. Finalists will then be nominated for the NEA award in the same category as KEA's official

nominee. For more information on application information please click [here](#).

## Save the Date



<b>JAN</b>	2019 Legislature in Recess, Pension Work Group Meets T & R at 9:30 a.m. Annex Rm 154
<b>JAN 23</b>	KEA #DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest Entries due to KEA HQ
<b>FEB 15</b>	Deadline to submit nominations for KEA Teacher and ESP of the Year

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

KEA President  
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