April 6, 2020

Dear Member,

Thank you for your continued work to ensure students are fed and learning safely from home; we see so many heartwarming posts on Facebook and Twitter every day. Thank you for sharing your excellence with the world. Please continue to do so.

When you post, please tag KEA Facebook and Twitter, so we can share, too. If you have pictures showing how you are supporting students and your communities during this difficult time, we would love to share them. Please send all pictures to David Patterson at David.Patterson@kea.org. Include the name of your local and identify all individuals in the photo. Joel and I are so proud of you. Please remember to practice good social distancing and safety practices so everyone remains #HealthyatHome. Keep safe and stay healthy. #TeamKentucky

Fill Out Your 2020 Census Today

The 2020 Census has officially started. All Kentucky residents should have received information from the U.S. Census containing a code to fill out the census online. It is quick, easy, and only takes about 10 minutes to complete. The U.S. Census is vitally important to the well-being of children and the strength of all public schools. Using census data, each year the federal government allocates tens of billions of dollars in education funds to states and localities using formulas that factor in population and poverty levels. An accurate census count is the critical first step to helping educators address the needs of every child who walks through their doors. The census happens only once every 10 years; when we undercount young children, the consequences can last most of their childhood. Please fill out your census today!

From the Hill

The General Assembly came back into session on Wednesday, April 1st--without the oversight of the public--to continue passing legislation. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the state economy, the General Assembly, through a Free Conference Committee Recommendation, passed a one-year budget. Below you will find a summation of the impact on public education.

A one-year budget, rather than a two-year biennium
A one-year budget, rather than a two-year biennium budget.

COVID-19 has produced an economic uncertainty and therefore contributed to the inability to produce an accurate financial forecast. Estimates are that there could be $130 million less in projected funds than originally forecast just weeks ago. The committee recommends waiting until late 2020 or early 2021 for an accurate forecast to create the additional year’s budget.

No Raises.

The one-year budget contains no raises for any public employee, including school employees, due to the economic uncertainty created by the COVID-19 crisis.

No changes to SEEK Funding.

The one-year budget maintained the current SEEK base funding at $4,000 per student. In addition:

- Added language to include the limited proficiency in English allocation within the SEEK formula.
- Directed all SEEK surplus funds in FY 20 to lapse to the General Fund.
- Equalized all school district facility nickels levied as of January 1, 2020, up to three nickels. This equalizes 33 new districts at 25% in FY 21, with the intent to fully equalize them in the next biennium.
- Restored language to clarify that hold-harmless districts will not take a pro rata reduction in case of a SEEK shortfall.
- Did not include funds for EKU’s Model Laboratory School in SEEK.

Teachers' Retirement.

- TRS pension fund, as well as the other public pension funds, will be funded at the full actuarial contribution. The TRS shared responsibility component will be fully funded.
- Retirees will continue to be part of the Kentucky Employees’ Health Plan and premiums will continue to reflect the current premium structure.
- Ensures that current TRS members’ contributions toward retiree medical insurance will not increase.
- Added language to require the amount in excess of the actuarially determined contribution for the medical insurance trust fund to be carried forward and applied to the FY 22 actuarially determined contribution.
- Adds language to reiterate that there is no dependent subsidy for under-65 retirees after Plan Year 2020.
- Adds language that will allow reduced TRS ARC payments and reduced retiree health contribution by the state if the budget revenue shortfall is greater than 5%.
School Safety.

- Limits the administrative costs of the Kentucky Center for School Safety.
- Adds General Fund support of $9.4 million in FY 21 for school-based mental health services providers and adds language to clarify the requirements for school districts to receive reimbursement. This includes pension and health insurance costs for those personnel.
- Directs the Kentucky Center for School Safety and the State School Security Marshal to collaborate to determine how to distribute the funds in accordance with School Safety Bills SB 1 (2019) and SB 8 (2020).
- Adds language to clarify the redistribution of resources among programs provides funding for the school-based mental health services providers.

School Facilities Construction.

- Reduces bond funds for Normal Offers of Assistance to $58 million.
- Reduces expected Normal Offers of Assistance for the next biennium to $58 million.
- Adds $47.5 million in bond funds for Special Offers of Assistance to four schools at the top of the KFICS List.
- Authorizes additional Restricted Funds transfer of $2.9 million in FY 21.

Reductions.

- No funding for Elementary Arts and Humanities.
- No funding for Kentucky Academy for Equity in Teaching.
- No funding for Professional Learning.
- No funding for KTIP or KPIP.

NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Election Extended to April 17th

The election for KEA’s statewide delegates to the 2020 NEA Representative Assembly has been extended to April 17th. This is a statewide, online election and open to all Active members. KEA Retired and Aspiring Educators will elect their delegates to the NEA RA in separate elections. An individualized voter code was included above your member name and address on the latest edition of the KEA News.

If you did not receive a copy of the KEA News, lost your copy of your KEA News, or did not have a voter code and you are an Active member, call 1-866-384-9978 to obtain a code. Active members can cast a ballot by visiting www.KEAVotes.com through April 17th. Again, ALL Active
KEA members are eligible to vote. To request a paper ballot or support in voting, call 1-866-384-9978 or email help+KEA@yeselections.com.

KESPA FRYSC Grant Opportunity

Each year, the Kentucky Education Support Professionals Association honors a school Family Resource and Youth Service Center with a $500.00 grant to support a student focused activity. This is a one-time grant and 100% of the funds must be used directly for the benefit of students. Grant applications must describe the number of students served by the school FRYSC, detail the use of the proposed grant and outcomes you hope to be achieved.

The application deadline has been extended to April 30, 2020. All applications will be reviewed and considered by a committee. The recipient of the grant will be notified no later than April 30th, 2020. The winning FRYSC will be honored and presented the grant during the annual RESPECT Conference at John Hardin High School in Elizabethtown, KY on June 13th, 2020.

Click here to apply for the KESPA FRYSC Grant.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Extended to April 17</th>
<th>Statewide Delegate Election to NEA Representative Assembly (Active Members Only)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>KESPA FRYSC Grand Application Due</td>
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Sincerely,
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