

March 19, 2020



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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COVID-19/Constitutional Crisis Day 3 #KYGA2020 Special Edition Presidents' Points

Dear Member:

Today marks the third day that the Kentucky General Assembly is passing legislation without public input!

Democracy dies in the dark! This Special Edition Presidents' Points is to help you keep up to date on what is happening at the Capitol. Please call and email your Representative and Senator and tell them that doing the people's business without the people is WRONG! Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181.

Yesterday on the Hill

Late in the day on Wednesday, the Senate released their version of the budget. The most outrageous provision in it holds hostage the annual required payments to TRS unless "structural changes" are passed by August 1, 2020 and again by August 1, 2021. If the "structural changes" don't occur, the TRS will lose over \$500 million each year and the money will be paid to Kentucky Employee Retirement System's non-hazardous fund.

The Senate is trying to hold you and the Governor hostage to get structural changes to TRS. This is not service to the people of the Commonwealth; it is a craven, opportunistic scheme that pits one group of public employee and retirees against another. It may be the most reprehensible proposal to ever come out of the Senate.

The Senate is doing this for two reasons:

- 1). To get TRS participants to stop their opposition to structural changes and agree to provisions it couldn't otherwise accomplish, and
- 2). To tie Governor Beshear's hands and force him to call them into Special Session for the purpose of pension reform by mid-July, at the latest.

Call your Senator! Remind him or her that they are supposed to be working for the people of Kentucky, not against them. Legislative Message Line: 1-800-372-7181.

KEA is analyzing the other provisions in the Senate Budget. The next edition of President's Points will have more information.

House Education Committee- The House Education Committee met on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and passed the following bills:

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
HB146	Rep. Freeland	AN ACT relating to Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarships.	KEA Track
HB385	Rep. Sims	AN ACT relating to vision examinations.	KEA Support
HB557	Rep. Goforth	AN ACT relating to school resource officers.	KEA Support
SB115	Sen. Wilson	AN ACT relating to the tuition waiver for Kentucky foster or adopted children.	No Position
SB158	Sen. Givens	AN ACT relating to education.	KEA Track

Unless Necessary, this should be the final meeting of the House Education Committee for this session.

Senate State and Local Government - The Senate State and Local Government Committee met on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and passed the following education-related bills:

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
HB484	Rep. Weber	AN ACT relating to retirement	KEA Support

Education Bills on the move - House Chamber

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
HB220	Rep. Huff	AN ACT relating to public charter school authorizer training.	KEA Support
HB393	Rep. Tipton	AN ACT relating to dual credit scholarships.	KEA Track
<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
HB312	Rep. Meade	AN ACT relating to children.	KEA Track
HB366	Rep. Frazier	AN ACT relating to Eastern Kentucky	KEA Track

University's model
and practice school

Senate Bill 10 - An ACT relating to the Kentucky Board of Education and declaring an emergency was passed over in the Senate Orders of Day

**Please Deliver These Three
Messages to Your Legislators**

CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR - 1-800-372-7181

One Call - Three Messages

Tell your legislator to pass COVID19 Relief for school districts and their employees and then go home!

Tell your Representative to Vote NO on SB 7 - This bill was intentionally moved from the House Education Committee to the House Local Government Committee in search of a chairperson more agreeable to its passage. SB 7 takes away any meaningful input by parents or educators in selecting a principal that meets the unique needs in their building. SB 7 is a direct assault on parent, educators and on local control of public schools. The bill has been on the fast track since Tuesday. It has received two of the required three readings and is expected to be heard in its newly-assigned committee at any time.

Tell your Senator to Vote NO on SB 10 - This bill will reorganize the Kentucky State Board of Education once again. It is time we stop playing politics with the state board. The current Board of Education is comprised of highly qualified education professionals who know and understand what our students, educators and public schools need to be successful. Political party affiliation should not be considered when making appointments to the State Board; professional or significant policy experience in public education is all that should matter.

Sincerely,

Eddie Campbell

KEA President
401 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-231-4532
www.kea.org