

# KEA President's Points

January 20, 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.

## Quick Links

[KEA Scholarships/Awards](#)

[KEA Issues and Actions](#)

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Member:

Last week, the #KYGA2020 finished their second week of the 60-day session. KEA welcomed members and staff from Second District, KESPA, and UKREA for the first of many KEA Days of Learning that will occur throughout the session. KEA members talked to legislators and advocated for students, educators, and public education. If you would like to find out more about attending a KEA Day of Learning, contact your district president or your local KEA Office.

On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor Andy Beshear delivered his first State of the Commonwealth address, declaring the state of our Commonwealth "strong" and urging all Kentuckians to work together on "Team Kentucky." Public education was a central theme of his address, and he especially noted that educators "are on the front lines of every problem we face as a Commonwealth - from family-member addiction, to hunger, to the need for better jobs." Governor Beshear believes that "public education has the power to transform," and promised that "it will be prioritized during this administration." We expect to see the evidence of that during his first budget, which will be presented on Tuesday, January 28th at 7 p.m. (EST).

## January 16

### Senate and House Education committees:

**The Senate Education Committee** heard a presentation on the implementation of Senate Bill 1 (2019), the School Safety and Resilience Act. Mr. Jon Akers of the Kentucky Center for School Safety reported that many parts of SB1 have been implemented, however, significant parts of the bill are still awaiting action due to lack of funding. This session the Senate will hear SB8, which is being presented as a "clean-up" bill to SB1. We expect funding for full implementation of SB1 to be a hot topic during the General Assembly's consideration of the Governor's budget.

**The House Education Committee:** heard two bills and a presentation on school assessments.

**HB 14 (KEA has no position on this bill)** will extend tuition benefits for the spouses and children of specified emergency response personnel and public employees who die in the course of their duties.

**HB 190 (KEA is tracking this bill)** will require that a school's code of acceptable behavior and discipline include appropriate reporting and escalation requirements of incidents of bullying, time requirements for investigation and response of incidents of bullying, and procedures for appeal and review of each incident of bullying.

Both bills passed the committee with no objection and were forwarded to the full House for consideration and passage. The House Standing Committee on Education also heard a

presentation from KDE about the various student assessments required by local board policy and state and federal law. The testing burden varies from district to district, but is significant everywhere. We expect to see legislation addressing the number and frequency of assessments and look forward to working with sponsors and the committee to achieve the best possible outcome for our students and educators.

## Coming This Week on the Hill

### Key Committee Meetings for January 22-24, 2020 Wednesday, January 22, 2020

- Senate State and Local Government Committee (12 p.m. EST), Annex Room 154

We expect the committee to hear **SB7, which KEA OPPOSES**. This bill is sponsored by Senator John Schickel, a Republican who represents Boone County. Senator Schickel is a long-time and vocal opponent of school councils, and [this bill significantly curtails the power of school councils](#).

SB7 allows a local board to require an annual report of activities from a school council; reduces the minimum number of teachers serving on the council to two; specifies that a council decision is appealable to the local board; requires the local board of education to review a school council decision; specifies the alignment of council policy with local board policy; allows a teacher to be transferred while serving on the school council; specifies that local board members may attend council meetings; permits a superintendent to forward qualified applicants to the principal instead of the council; alters the principal hiring process requiring a principal to be selected by the superintendent after consultation with the school council; and requires school council authority to be transferred to the superintendent if a school is identified for comprehensive support and improvement.

We urge you to call the [members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee](#) now and tell them to vote "NO" on SB 7. Let the senators know that it is imperative the school councils remain a strong and viable voice for parents and educators in the governance of individual schools. Call today: 1-800-372-7181.

### Thursday, January 23, 2019

- Senate Education Committee (11:30 a.m. EST), Annex Room 149
- House Education Committee (upon adjournment\*), Annex Room 154

[To see a full list of education bills being tracked by KEA during this session click here.](#)

## Deadline Extended! #DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest

Any public school student in grades P-12 is invited to submit one entry to our annual student art contest. The theme for

the contest is #DifferenceMakers.

Students are asked to create a PORTRAIT of a public school employee that has made a difference in their life. All entries must be accompanied by an [entry form](#). All entries must arrive at KEA, 401 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601 by 5 p.m. EST on Friday, February 14, 2020. Please write "#DifferenceMakers Entry" on the outside of the envelope.

Entries will be displayed at the Kentucky Department of Education.

One student in each grade span will win \$50 and their teacher will also win a \$50 prize. The #DifferenceMaker will receive the students' original framed artwork.

## TRS Board of Trustee Nominations

The TRS Nominating Committee is taking nominations for one (1) open seat on the Board of Trustees. [For more information and a list of responsibilities of a TRS Board of Trustee click here.](#)

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, February 7, 2020 at 5 p.m. EST. Potential nominees should complete the [nomination form](#) and submit it along with the other required documents to [TRSNomination@kea.org](mailto:TRSNomination@kea.org) or documents can be mailed to KEA, 401 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601. Mailed nominations must be received by the deadline.

## Save the Date



January 25	KEA Fellows Meeting
February 7	Nominations for TRS Board of Trustees due by 5 p.m. EST
February 14	KEA President Scholarships applications are due. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information on KEA scholarships
February 14	#DifferenceMakers Art Contest submissions due
February 15	Nomination deadline for the Valvoline 2021 Kentucky Teacher of the Year; <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information on how to nominate a teacher
February 21 & 22	KEA Board of Directors Meeting

Sincerely,

**Eddie Campbell**

KEA President  
401 Capital Ave  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
1-800-231-4532  
[www.kea.org](http://www.kea.org)