

# KEA President's Points

February 10, 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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## Join Our List

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Dear Member:

Last week we welcomed members and staff from JCTA, First District, KESPA, and KEA-Retired for a Day of Learning. It is always a joy to see many familiar faces and exciting to see many members who are at their first Day of Learning (and first time in Frankfort for some).

No matter how long you have been a member of KEA, you have a permanent invitation to come to "The People's House" and a KEA Day of Learning.

If you would like to participate, contact your district president or your local KEA office. If you are curious what the day would look like or what issues we are working on, please visit the KEA website or the KEA App for more information.

## Last Week on the Hill

### Senate Bill 7

On Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Senate State & Local Government Committee heard Senate Bill 7, a bill that strips all school councils of their authority in deference to the superintendent and, to a lesser degree, to the local board of education. This bill should have been assigned to the Senate Education Committee, but Senate leadership was obviously concerned that they might not get the intended outcome there.

The original version of SB 7 was amended in committee to maintain three (3) educator positions on the council and add a third parent position. Unfortunately, those changes don't mean much, because the other provisions of the bill strip all school councils of any meaningful input into principal selection and place that power entirely with the superintendent.

The bill also gives the local board of education authority to review and overturn school council decisions.

**By sponsoring or co-sponsoring this bill, Senators are telling more than 7,000 parents and teachers currently voluntarily serving on school councils that their opinions about how their schools should be led, staffed, and governed don't matter.**

They believe only the superintendent's opinion matters. KEA doesn't believe that and neither should you.

**KEA opposes SB 7 and testified against it in committee.**

I was joined by three KEA members who are also SBDM participants: Jody Cabble (Fayette County), LeAnn Lewis

(Kenton County), and Candace Young (Madison County). They told powerful stories of the success of school council engagement and the dangers of consolidating the work of the councils to the superintendent. SB 7 will return Kentucky to pre-KERA days, when superintendents used principal positions as favors and held sway over their local boards of education. As we expected, despite the obvious problems with SB 7, it passed out of committee.

On Thursday, February 6th, the Senate passed SB 7 by a vote of 20-15 and sent the bill to the House. A bi-partisan group of senators understand that this bill is a serious step backward for Kentucky public education and voted against it.

**Please take the opportunity to call, email, or thank in person the following senators for voting NO on SB 7: Tom Buford, Jared Carpenter, Julian Carroll, Perry Clark, C.B. Embry, Denise Harper-Angel, Stan Humphries, Morgan McGarvey, Dennis Parrett, Brandon Smith, Reggie Thomas, Johnny Ray Turner, Robin Webb, Whitney Westerfield and Phillip Wheeler.**

SB 7 will now go to the House. We urge all supporters of public education, including all KEA members, to speak up for SBDM's by clicking [here](#).

**House Education Committee--**The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020, and passed the following bills:

**Bill # [HB 22](#)**

**Bill Sponsor: Rep. Riley**

**Bill Issue(s): AN ACT relating to corporal punishment in schools**

**KEA position: [KEA TRACK](#)**

**Bill # [HB 340](#)**

**Bill Sponsor: Rep. Huff**

**Bill Issue(s): AN ACT relating to speech-language pathologists and audiologists**

**KEA Position: [KEA SUPPORT](#)**

**Bill # [SB 8](#)**

**Bill Sponsor: Sen. Wise**

**Bill Issue(s): AN ACT relating to school safety and declaring an emergency**

**KEA Position: [KEA TRACK](#)**

**Senate Education Committee--**The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, February 6, 2020, and passed the following bills:

**Bill # [SB 101](#)**

**Bill Sponsor: Sen. Wilson**

AN ACT relating to school safety and declaring an emergency

The Senate also heard a presentation on Advance Placement exams in Kentucky featuring Tyler Murphy, who is a Boyle County AP World History Teacher, KEA member, and Fayette County School Board member, and Rafael Fricker, an AP

student from Western Hills High School in Frankfort.

### Education Legislation currently moving in the General Assembly

**SB 63 (KEA TRACK)**, sponsored by Sen. Higdon, creates a pathway for people who have dropped out of high school to virtually complete their diploma. This bill is now assigned to the House Education Committee.

**SB 42 (KEA SUPPORT)**, sponsored by Sen. Harper Angel, would require the numbers of the suicide prevention hotline and sexual assault hotline be printed on the back of student identification cards. This bill is now in the House.

**HB 22 (KEA TRACK)**, sponsored by Rep. Riley, would outlaw corporal punishment in public and private schools in Kentucky. This bill will now move to the Senate.

**HB 266 (KEA SUPPORT)**, sponsored by Rep. Koch, would allow students to pre-enroll in a school district if their parents or guardians are transferring to a reserve component or separating from the military under honorable conditions; will allow students to use the address of home under contract to be built as a qualifying residence; if temporary housing (as defined in the bill) is not available, will allow qualifying students to reside outside the district for up to one year and be included in the attending district's average daily attendance. This bill will now move to the Senate.

**SB 7 (KEA OPPOSE)**, sponsored by Sen. Schickel, has been received by the House.

**SB 8 (KEA TRACK)**, sponsored by Sen. Max Wise, which would arm School Resource Officers, provide for SRO's per campus rather than per school, provide more resources for counseling, reduce the counselor to student ratio, provide for trauma-informed training, racial bias training, and other trainings, and allow classrooms to be unlocked under certain circumstances. This bill passed out of the House and will now go to the Governor for his signature or veto.

### This Week in Frankfort

We will welcome Fifth District (Tuesday) and **KESPA & Retired members (Thursday)** for Days of Learning.

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**: House Education Committee 8 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154.

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**: House Appropriations & Revenue (House A&R) Committee 10 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154.

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**: Senate State & Local Government Noon (EST), Annex Room 154.

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**: Senate Education Committee 11:30 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 149.

To see information on newly filed legislation, please click [here](#).

For more information and one pagers on KEA 2020 Legislative Issues, please click [here](#).

### Why is the Census so Critical for Students and

## Educators in Public Schools?

Census data determines the distribution of more than \$800 billion in federal money, including money to programs that help our students. Some of those programs provide supports for children with special needs and those from low-income families.

These funds help schools reduce class sizes, hire specialists, continuously bolster teacher quality, offer preschool to low-income families, and ensure that hungry students can get breakfast or lunch to help them pay attention in class.

Census data are also critical to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which keeps millions of families out of poverty and has lasting benefits for children's health and academic success. It is important that everyone is counted! Educators can play a vital role in the census process. [Click here for more information about the census and to order a free census poster.](#) [Click here for NEA classroom resources.](#)

## KEA Scholarship Opportunities-Last Week to Apply

If you are an active KEA member you should check out the KEA Presidents' Scholarship opportunities. Members can apply online for up to \$1,000 in scholarship money to complete certification in one of the following areas: Rank II (Masters), Rank I (Beyond Master's), National Board Certification or the Classified Continuing Education (must be an ESP member to apply) - the ESP scholarship award is based on the cost of the continuing education. **All applicants must be a member of KEA. *Deadline is Friday, February 14, 2019 5:00 p.m. (EST).*** Scholarship award amounts vary by KEA District. [Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

## Don't Forget! Deadlines Are Fast Approaching!

[KEA Teacher of the Year- Application Due February 14, 2020](#)

[KEA ESP of the Year - Application Due February 14, 2020](#)

[#DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest - Art Due by February 14, 2020](#)

## Save the Date



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

<b>February 15</b>	TRS Nominating Committee meeting -- TRS Building
<b>February 15</b>	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
<b>February 21 &amp; 22</b>	KEA Board of Directors Meeting
<b>March 2</b>	<a href="#">Read Across America Day</a>

Sincerely,

**Eddie Campbell**

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