

KEA President's Points

February 3, 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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Dear Member:

On Tuesday KEA launched our first [ACTION ALERT](#) of the 2020 session regarding Senate Bill 7, the SBDM bill. Initially ushered in with KERA in 1990, **Site Based Decision Making Councils** represent a fundamental change in school governance, empowering all stakeholders with the autonomy to make decisions they believe are in the best interests of the school. SB7 will gut the autonomy of site based councils, making their decisions subject to approval by the superintendent and local board of education. **But legislators will listen if they hear from you.** We urge all our members, and all supporters of public education to review our message and take action. Let your voice be heard in Frankfort.

Last Week on the Hill

On Friday, January 31st, the legislature completed the 18th day of the 60-day session. KEA was excited to welcome KESPA, Central District, Fayette County Education Association, EKEA, and KEA-R members and staff to KEA HQ and the Capitol for KEA Days of Learning.

If you would like more information about KEA Days of Learning or information of when a KEA Day of Learning is scheduled for your district, contact your district president or your local KEA Office.

Governor Beshear Unveils Kentucky's "Education First" Budget

Governor Beshear delivered his first budget address on Tuesday, January 28th, and in keeping with the promises he made as a candidate, delivered an "education first" budget. His proposal begins the long-needed task of reinvesting in what Kentucky values most, leading with investments in Kentucky's public schools, public school students and educators.

Among the investments made in the governor's proposed budget are:

- **SEEK** funding increase of 1% to **\$4,040**
- **\$18.2** million in school building upgrades mandated, but not funded, by Senate Bill 1 in 2019
- **\$2,000** teacher raise
- **Full funding** for the Teachers' Retirement System, including funding health insurance coverage for teacher

retirees under the age of 65

- **\$22 million** in funding for textbooks
- **\$5 million** to support pre-school in low income areas
- **Over \$5 million in funding** to help our public-school districts purchase much needed new school buses

Governor Beshear proposed paying for his budget by:

- Raising the cigarette tax by 10 cents
- Taxing e-cigarettes/vaping products
- Raising the limited liability entity (LLE) minimum tax from \$175 to \$225 (to adjust for inflation)
- Transferring \$288 million over two years from the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund and Department of Insurance Fees
- Using revenue collected from legalizing sports betting

Although KEA certainly supports this proposed budget, we acknowledge that it is imperfect in important ways. It does not provide raises for Education Support Professionals who are the heart and soul of every public school. Many in our ESP family still do not make a living wage. As the legislature considers the governor's budget and makes its own decisions about how to proceed, it is critical that Kentucky invests in **ALL EDUCATORS, including ESPs**. We will continue to work with the governor, as well as the legislature, to fight for the inclusion of all educators in the final budget. Remember, the governor's proposed budget is just that--a proposal for the legislature to consider. It is the first step in the budget process. The proposal now moves to the House of Representatives.

Legislative Standing Committees:

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 28th and passed the following bills:

- HB 37, a bill requiring schools to offer all students instruction in visual and performing arts
- HB 87, a bill requiring completion of the FASFA form as a high school graduation requirement
- HB 151, a bill increasing the minimum amount to trigger advertising and bidding for school building projects
- HB 220, a bill that prevents requiring public charter school authorizers to receive training until after the receipt of a charter application

The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, January 30th, and passed the following bills:

- SB 42, a bill requiring student ID badges issued to public middle or high school students to contain the contact information for national crisis hotlines specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide
- SB 63, a bill allowing virtual high school completion for specific designees who did not finish high school

Education Legislation on the Move

[Senate Bill 8](#) - an update to the 2019 School Safety & Resilience Act passed out of the Senate this week. KEA is **TRACKING** this bill.

[House Bill 190](#) - Alex's Law passed out of the house. This is an anti-school bullying and reporting bill sponsored by Rep. Kevin Bratcher. **KEA SUPPORTS** this bill.

*For full text of the bills click the active links.

TRS Board of Trustee Nominations

The TRS Nominating Committee is taking nominations for one (1) open seat on the Board of Trustees. [Click here for more information, nomination requirements and the nomination form.](#) *Nominations may be submitted to* The TRS Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for one (1) open active teacher seat on the TRS Board of Trustees. [Click here for more information, nomination requirements and the nomination form.](#) Nominations may be submitted to TRSNomination@kea.org and will be accepted through 5 p.m. (EST) on February 7th, 2020. Any active TRS member is eligible to be nominated (or to self-nominate) for consideration by the nominating committee. All nominees' status as an active annuitant will be verified by TRS. Nominees who meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed by the committee and two (2) candidates will be placed on the ballot. In April and May 2020, active and retired TRS members will participate in an election to fill the open position on the board of trustees. Voting will include the option to vote electronically through the Pathway member self-service portal on the TRS website.

KEA Scholarship Opportunities

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 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](#)

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

Save the Date



February 7	Nominations for TRS Board of Trustees due by 5 p.m. (EST)
February 14	KEA President Scholarships applications are due. Click here for more information on KEA scholarships
February 14	#DifferenceMakers Art Contest submissions due
February 15	TRS Nominating Committee meeting -- TRS Building
February 15	Nomination deadline for the Valvoline 2021 Kentucky Teacher of the Year; Click here for more information on how to nominate a teacher
February 21 & 22	KEA Board of Directors Meeting

Sincerely,

Eddie Campbell

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