

KEA President's Points

March 2, 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:

Last week we welcomed members and staff from JCTA, NKEA, and KEA Aspiring Educators for a Day of Learning. It is always a joy to see so many familiar faces and exciting to see many members attending their first Day of Learning (and first time in Frankfort for some). KEA hosts a Day of Learning every Tuesday and Thursday, so there are still several opportunities to participate before the end of the session. Contact your district president or your local KEA office for more information.

ACTION ALERT!

[House Bill 350](#) - Scholarship Tax Credit bill (aka Voucher bill) has been the focus of many discussions on the hill. This bill has the potential of draining millions of dollars from the Kentucky General Fund which, in turn, means less funding that can be used to support students in Kentucky's public schools, fund public works projects, public safety, and much, much more. Contact your representative and ask him or her to vote NO on HB 350. **Legislative message number: 1-800-321-7181**

Last Week on the Hill

House Education Committee- The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, and passed the following bills:

| Bill # | Bill Sponsor | Bill Issue(s) | KEA Position |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| HB 93 | Rep. Massey | AN ACT relating to school construction | TRACK |
| HB 301 | Rep. DuPlessis | AN ACT relating to financial literacy | OPPOSE |
| HB 366 | Rep. Frazier | AN ACT relating to EKU model, practice | TRACK |
| SB 63 | Sen. Higdon | AN ACT relating to high school programs | TRACK |

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

| Bill # | Bill Sponsor | Bill Issue(s) | KEA Position |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| SB 115 | Sen. Wilson | AN ACT relating to tuition waiver for Kentucky foster or adopted children | TRACK |
| SB 158 | Sen. Givens | AN ACT relating to | TRACK |

[SB 193](#) Sen. Adams AN ACT relating to **TRACK**
education
computer science
education

Education legislation currently moving in the General Assembly

[SB 156](#) (**KEA TRACK**) Sen. Higdon - Directs the Kentucky Department of Education to develop a plan to transition all state-operated secondary vocational education centers to local school districts by July 1, 2024. This bill passed out of the Senate on February 25th. This bill will now move on to the House.

[HB 402](#) (**KEA TRACK**) - Rep. Miller - House Bill 402 is part of two "clean-up" bills (the other is HB 401) that TRS has been working to get passed for a few years. This bill passed out of the House on February 25th.

If passed by the Senate without changes, HB 402 will:

- Provide that breaks in service are required before returning to work for the employer even if in a position not covered by the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS);
- Begin running breaks in service from date of retirement;
- Prohibit prearranged agreements between a retiring member and employer for member to return to work after retirement and require certification thereof;
- Require retired members returning to work for public universities and community colleges to comply with the separation from service requirements;
- Reduce the \$500 minimum monthly disability benefit by benefit payments from all state-administered retirement systems for part-time employees and substitute teachers participating in the TRS who apply for disability benefits on or after July 1, 2020;
- Provide that part-time employees and substitute teachers are not eligible to apply for a disability retirement allowance if they are eligible for an unreduced retirement benefit;
- Provide that members who begin participating on or after July 1, 2020, shall not be eligible for a disability benefit if they are eligible for any unreduced benefit and that they shall have their \$500 minimum monthly disability benefit reduced by benefit payments from all state-administered retirement systems.

This Week in Frankfort

- We will welcome **JCTA (Tuesday)** and **UCEA (Thursday)** for a Day of Learning
- **Tuesday, March 2nd**: House Education Committee, 8 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Tuesday, March 2nd**: House Appropriations & Revenue (House A&R) Committee, 10 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Wednesday, March 3rd**: Senate State & Local Government, Noon (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Thursday, March 4th**: Senate Education Committee,

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

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

2020 Census - We Count

The U.S. Census is vitally important to the well-being of children and the strength of their 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 count happens only once every 10 years; when we under count young children, the consequences can last most of their childhood. [Click here for more information on the census and free resources for your school.](#) [Click here for more information from Kentucky Youth Advocates and enter to win a chance to win \\$500.00 for your school.](#)

NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Election March 1-31

KEEP YOUR KEA NEWS! The election for KEA's statewide delegates to the 2020 NEA Representative Assembly is now open.

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 1-866-384-7685 to obtain a code.

Active members can cast a ballot by visiting KEAVotes.com from March 1st to March 31st. Again, ALL Active KEA members are eligible to vote. To request a paper ballot or get support in voting, call 1-866-384-7685 or email help+KEA@yeselections.com.

KESPA FRYSC Grant

Each year 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 hope to be accomplished. The application deadline is March 31st, 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.](#)

Save the Date



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|---------------|--|
| March 1 - 31 | Statewide Delegate Election to NEA Representative Assembly |
| March 1 - 7 | School Social Work Week |
| March 2 | Read Across America Day |
| March 13 & 14 | NEA Leadership Summit |
| March 20 & 21 | NEA Education Support Professional Conference |
| March 31 | KEA Board of Directors Meeting |
| March 31 | KESPA FRYSC Grand Application Due |
| April 1 - 3 | KEA Delegate Assembly |

Sincerely,

Eddie Campbell

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