

KEA President's Points

March 30, 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,

As we move into the third week of the COVID-19 closures, your continued dedication to your students and your professional excellence is needed more than ever. Thank you for all the amazing work you are doing to ensure students are fed and learning safely from home; we see the heartwarming posts on Facebook and Twitter every day.

When you post, please tag KEA Facebook and Twitter, so we can share, too. If you have pictures of how you are supporting students and your communities during this difficult time, we would love to share them. Please send all pictures to David Patterson at David.Patterson@kea.org. Include the name of the local you represent and identify all individuals in the photo. Joel and I are so proud of you. Keep safe and stay healthy. **#teamkentucky**

#HealthyatHome: KEA Office Announcement

During this uncertain time, KEA is taking steps to be responsible neighbors and citizens. In keeping with Governor Beshear's recommendations and recent Executive Orders, all KEA staff are working from home. Even though KEA is not operating in normal ways, we remain dedicated to supporting our members. If you need assistance or have a question, please call our main line at 1-800-231-4532, and dial extension 1323 to leave a message. Calls will be routed to the appropriate staff person as soon as possible, but not later than the next business day. You can also reach your KEA leadership, UniServ Directors or any other KEA staff member via email; just go to www.kea.org under "About us" and use the "KEA Board" page, "UniServ Directors" page, or the "Staff Directory" page to find the person you want to contact. You can email directly from the link on the page.

Like all of you, we look forward to the time when our lives and business operations can return to normal. Until then, please know that we are still here for you, as we have always been. Be safe and well. We look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

2020 Census: Everyone Counts Webinar

In March, the U.S. Census Bureau sent mailings to households all across America. The response to these mailings will affect

funding and political power in every state, city and school district. Over \$1.5 trillion in federal funds rely on census data, including funds for special education, teacher training, school food services, transportation, Head Start and after-school programs. Every person missed by the Census means less money and less political power for your community. Even though the Census is safe, important and necessary - it misses millions of people each decade. NEA will be holding a session to discuss the "Everyone Counts" campaign, and what certified or classified members can do to make sure they, their students and their communities are counted fully. [If you would like to participate in this webinar session, click here to register.](#)

Completing the 2020 Census from home is easy. Go to <https://2020census.gov/en.html> and use the code printed on the mailing you received. Online responses are safe, easy, and private, and it means that no one will need to come to your door to make sure you and your family members are counted.

KESPA FRYSC Grant Opportunity

Each year, the 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 you hope to be achieved.

The application deadline has been extended to April 30, 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.](#)

From the Hill

The General Assembly came back into session on Thursday, March 26th, without the oversight of the public, to continue to pass legislation. The General Assembly will reconvene on Wednesday, April 1st. KEA is calling on all members to wear #RedforEd on Wednesday, take a picture and share on social media. Remember to tag your Representative and Senator. We look forward to seeing all the posts as we work to become "cyber advocates."

House Education Committee met upon recess of the House last Thursday and passed the following:

Bill	Sponsor	Description	KEA Position
SB 174	Sen. McGarvey	AN ACT relating to elementary and secondary teacher and principals	KEA Support

2020-2022 Budget Update:

The Budget conference committee met this past Monday and Wednesday to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Budget (HB 352). Although the conference committee's budget proposal is not yet finished, the committee **tentatively** agreed on to retain the current SEEK funding level of \$4,000 per student, fully fund the statutory and ARC funding levels for TRS without conditions, and to maintain some other categories of public education funding. The committee **did not** come to agreement on funding of pre-65 TRS retiree healthcare. This issue will be discussed in future meetings of the conference committee. The Budget Conference Committee is expected to meet this week to continue working on the budget. You can stream meetings of the Budget Conference Committee on the [KET Legislative Feed](#).

In the meantime, it is critical that we continue to be sure the educator voice is heard in Frankfort. **Please take the opportunity this week to contact your Representative and Senator. Tell them to stop the politics and pass a responsible budget that:**

- **Protects and funds PK-12 public education**
- **Protects and funds pre-65 retiree health insurance for educators**
- **Protects and funds TRS with NO changes for current or future retirees**

Call the Legislative Message Center: 1-800-372-7181 or [Click here to send an email.](#)

COVID-19 Relief in Kentucky:

[SB 150](#) - COVID-19 Relief bill provides the following:

- Waives the seven-day waiting period for collecting unemployment benefits
- Allows employees who have not lost jobs but had hours cut back to be eligible for unemployment
- Changes the state deadline for filing income taxes for the 2019 tax year to be the same as the federal deadline, which has been extended to **July 15**
- Permits restaurants with a license to sell liquor by the drink to sell such drinks in conjunction with takeout food orders
- Authorizes the use of state funds to support the state's

COVID-19 hotline operated by the Kentucky Poison Control Center

- Lifts restrictions on telehealth services to make it easier for health professionals to contact clients remotely instead of in person
- Allows the governor to waive state licensing, renewal, application fees and allows him to waive or reduce paperwork and administrative requirements as he believes necessary for people or businesses ordered to close or alter their operations due to the pandemic
- Extends from three to ten days the deadline for public agencies to respond to Open Records Act requests, and it allows them to deny on-site inspection of records if the agency's offices are temporarily closed to the public
- Suspends the Open Meetings Act to allow public agencies to hold live audio or live video-teleconference meetings and suspends the deadlines for local government governing boards to make decisions on matters such as planning, zoning, land use or code enforcement
- Establishes immunity for local businesses that create or provide personal protective equipment or personal hygiene supplies if they do not normally do so
- Requires the governor to declare in writing the day that the COVID-19 state of emergency has ceased. If the governor does not, then the General Assembly can declare when the emergency has ended after it comes into its next regular session

[SB 177](#) - **COVID-19 School Relief Bill** was signed by the Governor on March 25th. SB 177 provides the following relief for public education:

- Allows unlimited Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Days as needed during the COVID-19 crisis
- Allows districts that do not have an NTI plan to submit a plan for approval by the Commissioner of Education (all Kentucky public school districts have now submitted a plan)
- Allows flexibility for districts to adjust calendars and instructional days to meet the requirement of a minimum of 1062 hours student instructional time
- Allows superintendents to grant paid emergency leave to any full-time or part-time classified or certified employee as needed during the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Directs the Kentucky Department of Education to seek federal waivers to allow for school districts to be reimbursed under the federal School Lunch Act
- Allows non-congregate meal settings and reduces mandatory wait times between meals while districts are closed for the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Allows the Kentucky Board of Education to waive the statewide assessment and accountability system with

federal waivers

- Directs KDE to seek and utilize any federal waivers involving requirements of IDEA
- Allows local boards of education to revise district certified evaluation plans due to COVID-19 emergency
- Allows principals to award the number of educational enhancement opportunity days needed for graduating students to meet military or post-secondary education enrollment
- Allows written notices of non-renewal or salary adjustments to be delivered by email or regular mail
- Allows SEEK funding to be based on the average daily attendance of the 2018-2019 academic year
- All provisions are retroactive to March 6th and went into effect upon governor's signature on March 25th

KEA particularly thanks House Education Committee Chair Rep Regina Huff, Rep. Travis Brenda, Rep. Steven Riley, and Senator David Givens for their leadership in making this important legislation happen. The final version of SB 177 gives much needed relief to public schools and is evidence of legislators' dedication to students, educators and public education during this crisis. Please take time to call, email, or post on social media and thank these legislators and all members of the Kentucky General Assembly for passing this vitally important relief for schools.

Upcoming Events



March 1 - April 17	Statewide Delegate Election to NEA Representative Assembly (Active Members Only)
April 1-3	KEA Delegate Assembly - Cancelled
April 30	KESPA FRYSC Grand Application Due

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