

KEA President's Points

March 9, 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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[KEA Issues and Actions](#)

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Dear Member:

Last week we welcomed members and staff from JCTA, UCEA, and the Montgomery County Education Association for Day of Learning. If you would like to find out more about attending a KEA Day of Learning, contact your district president or your local KEA office. All KEA members are welcome to attend any KEA Day of Learning, so if you can't come with your district or local, that's not a problem. Just call KEA Headquarters 1-800-231-4532 and let us know you are coming. We will have everything ready for you when you arrive.

**ACTION NEEDED
Call Today!!!**

[Senate Bill 10](#) - This bill was heard and voted on during the Senate Education Committee this week. SB 10 would reorganize the Kentucky State Board of Education once again. It is time we stop playing politics with the state board. The current Board of Education is comprised of highly qualified education professionals who know and understand what our students, educators and public schools need to be successful. Political party affiliation should not be considered when making appointments to the state board; professional or significant policy experience in public education is all that should matter. We are asking all members to call and email your Senator and ask them to confirm the state board and vote NO on SB 10. **Legislative message number: 1-800-372-7181**

[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 work projects, public safety, and much, much more. Contact your representative and ask him or her to vote NO on HB 350. **Legislative message number: 1-800-372-7181**

Last Week on the Hill

House Education Committee- The House Education Committee met on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, and Friday, March

6, 2020 and passed the following bills:

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
HB368	Rep. Tipton	AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship.	KEA Support
HB458	Rep. Huff	AN ACT relating to home or hospital instruction.	KEA Support
HB463	Rep. Moser	AN ACT relating to the creation of the Kentucky Center for Cannabis Research and making an appropriation therefor.	No Position
SB42	Sen. Angel	AN ACT relating to student health and safety.	KEA Support
SB57	Sen. Carroll	AN ACT relating to public school building renovations and declaring an emergency.	KEA Track
HB316	Rep. Bratcher	AN ACT relating to the Council on Postsecondary Education.	No Position
HB419	Rep. McCool	AN ACT relating to postsecondary transparency.	No Position
HB434	Rep. Banta	AN ACT relating to student mental health assessments and making an appropriation therefor.	KEA Support
SB79	Sen. Adams	AN ACT relating to school background checks.	KEA Support
HJR82	Rep. Bojanowski	A JOINT RESOLUTION relating to school accountability.	KEA Support
HCR110	Rep. Wilner	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION related to the access of exceptional students to educational opportunities.	KEA Support
HB341	Rep. Huff	AN ACT relating to	KEA

Senate Education Committee-The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday, March 5, 2020, and passed the following bills:

<u>Bill #</u>	<u>Bill Sponsor</u>	<u>Bill Issue(s)</u>	<u>KEA Position</u>
<u>SB10</u>	Sen. Stivers	AN ACT relating to the Kentucky Board of Education and declaring an emergency.	KEA LT Oppose
<u>SB143</u>	Sen. Wheeler	AN ACT relating to moments of silence and reflection	KEA Track
<u>SB147</u>	Sen. McGarvey	AN ACT relating to elementary and secondary teachers.	KEA Support
<u>HB99</u>	Rep. Osborne	AN ACT creating and funding a Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority load for a qualifying public medial center located in a city of the first class.	No Position
<u>HB151/GA</u>	Rep. Dossett	AN ACT relating to school building projects	No Position
<u>HB266/GA</u>	Rep. Koch	AN ACT relating to children of military families.	KEA Support

House of Representatives Unveils Kentucky's Budget

On Thursday and Friday, the House of Representatives filed and passed [HB352](#), their version of the 2020 - 2022 Biennium Budget. Although different from the budget proposed by Governor Beshear, this budget does start to change the direction of investments in our public schools. This is the second step in the budget process. The budget will now move to the Senate, which can make any changes to the House bill it deems appropriate. Both chambers will eventually have to agree on a single version of the bill. KEA will be monitoring the budget process as it moves through the Senate and will update members as information becomes available.

House Proposed Budget Includes:

- **SEEK Base funding** increase - \$4061 1st year of the budget; \$4112 2nd year of the budget
- **\$18.7 million** in school building upgrades mandated by Senate Bill 1 (2019) (9.35 million each year of the budget)
- **Funding for counselors** - 14.8 million in the 1st year; 23.7 in the 2nd year
- **1% Pay increase** each year for all certified and classified school employees (added to SEEK)
- **\$10 million** in funding for textbooks (\$5 million each year)
- **Full funding** for the Teachers' Retirement System
- **Full funding** for the Kentucky Employee Retirement System
- **61.4 million** for pre-65 retiree health insurance coverage first year only; **NO funding for 2nd year of the biennium for pre-65 retiree health insurance coverage**
- **Does NOT restore** the funding that was removed from the current budget for health insurance subsidies for retirees' dependents
- **No Funding** for Educator Professional Learning
- **No Funding** for KTIP, KPIP or mentorships

This Week in Frankfort

- We will welcome **KEA Central District (Tuesday)** and **Third District and Fayette County Education Association (Thursday)** for Day of Learning
- **Monday, March 9th**: House Standing Committee on State Government
- **Tuesday, March 10th**: House Education Committee- 8 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Tuesday, March 10th**: House Appropriations & Revenue (House A&R) Committee-10 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Wednesday, March 12th**: Senate State & Local Government- Noon (EST), Annex Room 154
- **Thursday, March 13th**: 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](#).

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 1-866-384-9978 to obtain a code. **Active members can cast a ballot by visiting www.KEAVotes.com from March 1st to March 31st.** Again, ALL Active KEA members are eligible to vote. **To request a paper ballot or support in voting, call 1-866-384-9978 or email help+KEA@yeselections.com.**

2020 Census - We Count

The 2020 Census officially begins this week. 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 undercount 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.](#)

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.](#)

Educator Diversity Collective Application Opportunity

NEA is committed to assembling a cohort of at least 20 members to receive training and support that equips them to recruit and retain more educators of color into teaching. To be considered for membership in the Collective's pilot cohort, please complete the short form below before March 16, 2020 at midnight Eastern time.

[NEA is looking for educators interested in being a part of this cohort. If you are interested in applying for this cohort click here.](#)

For additional guidance about the application and the Collective, please visit our [FAQs](#) page

Upcoming Events



March 1 - 31	Statewide Delegate Election to NEA Representative Assembly (Active Members Only)
March 13 & 14	NEA Leadership Summit - Cancelled
March 20 & 21	NEA Education Support Professional Conference - Cancelled
March 31	KEA Board of Directors Meeting
March 31	KESPA FRYSC Grand Application Due
April 1 - 3	KEA Delegate Assembly

Please note that NEA has cancelled 2 of the National Conferences listed above. You should have received an email from NEA if you were registered to attend. Please take time to cancel all reservations and flights you have booked for these events.

Sincerely,

Eddie Campbell

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