April 20, 2020

Dear Member,

We hope this edition of President’s Points continues to find you and your family well, safe, and #HealthyAtHome. As the impact of the COVID-19 virus continues to dramatically impact our lives and the lives of our students, I want to “Thank You” for all you are doing for students and your community.

KEA leadership and staff is working on additional resources and webinars to help you and assist educators during this crisis. All resources and trainings are posted on the KEA website; be sure to check often for updates. As trainings and webinars become available, we will send out communication through special President’s Points and post the information on the KEA Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Return to Wednesdays

Beginning next week, President’s Points will return to the regular Wednesday edition, now that the General Assembly has adjourned. Be on the look out from your next edition on April 29, 2020.

Tell Your Story

Educators across Kentucky have stepped up to the challenge to ensure that students continue learning and are fed during these uncertain times. NEA wants to hear your stories. What success you are having with delivering instruction or engaging with students? What success have you had ensuring students are fed? What challenges have you faced during this crisis? What challenges are you facing working within IDEA and delivering services to students with disabilities during COVID-19? Follow this link and let your voices be heard: https://educationvotes.nea.org/action/ideastories/

Sine Die - 2020 General Assembly Adjourns

This week saw the final two days of Kentucky’s 2020 General Assembly. Lawmakers convened on Tuesday and Wednesday to, in part, override Gov. Beshear’s vetoes of parts of five budget and revenue bills, as well as vote on other education related bills and resolutions dealing with accountability and the Kentucky State Board of Education.

The Budget
The House voted 57-33 to ignore the governor’s decisions to veto 18 sections of House Bill 352, the $11.4 billion, one-year executive branch budget bill. The Senate overrode the vetoes in the budget bill on a vote of 27-7. The $11.3 billion executive branch budget will keep SEEK funding at $4,000 for one year and give schools support to improve safety measures envisioned when lawmakers approved SB 1 (2019) and SB 8 (2020). The spending plan, contained in House Bill 352, also provides the full actuarially recommended level of funding for state public pension systems, including TRS. It does not include any of the changes recommended in the Senate’s budget which would have altered the pension promise to future educators. The budget, as passed, partially vetoed, and with those vetoes now having been overridden by the legislature, does not include raises for educators or public employees in the first year. Details of the budget were included in the April 6 th edition of President’s Points. Click here for the April 6 th edition of President’s Points.

Senate Bill 158

Senate Bill 158 create a new accountability system for Kentucky's public schools. This bill changes how Kentucky law defines an educational achievement gap and alters how the state identifies public school accountability measures. The bill, which KEA tracked, focuses on comparing a student group's performance to goals that have been set for them and makes changes to how the state identifies accountability measures.

SB 158 will:

- Allow audit teams to continue determining whether principals at CSI schools can lead their schools’ turnaround efforts;
- Require the state to identify Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), schools every three years rather than every year;
- Delay charter-school authorization training for local school board members until an application is received by a district;
- Include SB 158 a new dashboard for school accountability and assessment measures that emphasizes the importance of all student academic success;
- Allow various approaches and vendors to state-imposed turnaround mandates.

SB 158 was passed by the General Assembly and is awaiting action by the governor.

Senate Bill 174

SB 174, which KEA supported, allows National Board Certification to serve as a qualifier to earn Rank II. Currently, the only way a teacher can achieve a Rank II is by earning a
The State Board of Education
The General Assembly confirmed all but one of the governor’s appointments to the State Board of Education. Of the voting members appointed in December 2019, only Chairman David Karem was not confirmed. State law dictates that Vice Chair Lu Young will serve as interim chair until the board elections in August.
The state board members confirmed by the Senate are:

- **Holly Bloodworth**, Murray, Supreme Court District 1
- **Patrice McCrary**, Bowling Green, Supreme Court District 2
- **Mike Bowling**, Middlesboro, Supreme Court District 3
- **Sharon Porter Robinson**, Louisville, Supreme Court District 4
- **Lu Young**, Nicholasville, Supreme Court District 5
- **JoAnn Adams**, Pleasureville, Supreme Court District 6
- **Cody Pauley Johnson**, Pikeville, Supreme Court District 7

These state board members will serve a term which will expire on April 14, 2024.
The Senate also confirmed three at-large members whose terms will expire April 14, 2022:

- **Claire Batt**, Lexington
- **Alvis Johnson**, Harrodsburg
- **Lee Todd**, Lexington

The Challenge
The end of the legislative session sets up the beginning of the next. The 2021 session will, out of necessity and because of it is a short session (30 days), be consumed with passing the remaining year of the biennium budget. It will be more critical than ever to use the summer months to lobby members of the legislature at home, as well as candidates for the House and Senate, to find the money necessary to invest in a fully funded public education system. As this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Rose decision, we have an opportunity to move public education forward for the next 30 years. It will take our continuous engagement and united voices to ensure the success our students, educators, and public schools.

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 application deadline has been extended to April 30, 2020. Click here to apply for the KESPA FRYSC Grant.

| April 30 | KESPA FRYSC Grand Application Due |

Sincerely,

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