

# KEA President's Points

February 27, 2019



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

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Dear Member:

Today marks the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the [2019 Legislative Session](#). There is a total of 789 bills filed between the House and the Senate. Many of these are education related. KEA tracks all education related bills. The KEA board has some long-standing positions such as our opposition to charter schools and our support of any new revenue streams that have dedicated earmarks for public schools or public pensions. Most of the time however, positions change depending on the day, the minute, committee substitutes, or sponsor led changes.

KEA is made up of an army of at-home lobbyists, more than 45,000 in fact. Our collective voice is much more powerful when we band together and advocate for students and public schools. It is so important that each member picks up the phone and calls 1-800-372-7181 (Legislative Message Line) or emails their legislators. **EVERY VOICE COUNTS!**

Here are a few of the bills we are keeping up with during this busy session:

[HB 58-SUPPORT](#) Retiree pensions

[HB 1/SB 1-SUPPORT](#) school safety and resiliency

[HB 426-SUPPORT](#) mandatory planning time for teachers

[SB 3-OPPOSE](#) SBDM reform

[HB 3-OPPOSE](#) war on the poor

[SB 8-OPPOSE](#) tribunal reform

[HB 504-NO POSITION](#) yet on TRS pension reform (still waiting on actuarial analysis/possible amendments to be posted)

**#Red4Rights**

## TRS to offer ONLINE Voting for the first time

TRS is adding the option of electronic voting beginning with this year's elections for the Board of Trustees. The goal of this new aspect for trustee elections is to provide a secure method for people who prefer to vote by personal device to be able to do so securely and to increase participation in the races. This electronic voting will be conducted in April followed by voting by paper ballot in May, which is unchanged.

Once the period for electronic voting is closed, paper ballots will be printed and mailed to anyone who hasn't already voted. Members will be notified through a variety of means - including the newsletter, the website and emails - about the period when electronic voting will be open through the Pathway member self-service site ([mss.trs.ky.gov](http://mss.trs.ky.gov)). On-screen

ballots will be very similar to the paper ballots TRS has used for years and include candidate biographies. For more details about this year's elections click [here](#).

## Read Across America Day -- Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Leaders

Many of our members will be celebrating a love of reading across the Commonwealth on Saturday, March 2. KEA received a large grant from NEA to support local efforts to increase accessibility to students with books with diverse content and characters.

The theme this year is "Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers". We will also welcome NEA Secretary-Treasurer Princess Moss to the Florence Mall event in northern Kentucky.

If you would like to access resources for your classroom, please visit the NEA Read Across America page [here](#). Be sure to visit the local malls in Paducah, Lexington, Florence, Bowling Green, and Elizabethtown for some great Read Across America Celebrations. Please call your local KEA office to find out more details about specific events. If you would like to purchase books that reflect many ethnicities and languages check out this [website](#).

## Save the Date



Mar 2	Read Across America Day. Celebrate a love of Reading in your local community!
Apr 3-5	KEA Delegate Assembly, Louisville

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

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