

KEA President's Points

March 16, 2018



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,

This week was a whirlwind of activity. We have had large groups of educators come to Frankfort every day! The engagement of members on issues has been exciting and inspiring to watch. WE are KEA. OUR mission: is to unite, organize, and empower our members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student. This statement has never been more evident to me than during the last week of activity.

We may have enemies, but we are much stronger than any words spoken, amount of money spent, or any actions taken against us. What we have, no one else can touch. We have a passion for kids and communities in Kentucky.

PENSION NEWS

Pension reform continues to be a "hot topic" around the annex and Capitol. SB 1 has yet to be heard for a second time by the Senate State/ Local Government Committee. The KEA Lobby team keeps a vigilant watch on the movement of bills and amendments. We will communicate immediately with KEA members if anything changes on the pension front.

BUDGET NEWS:

[HB 200](#) the State Executive Branch Budget bill is currently in the possession of Senate. They are expected to release their version of this bill next week some time. After we see the details of the Senate version, it will most likely go to a conference committee, made up of both House and Senate members. That group will agree on a final budget bill that will be sent to the Governor.

Please continue to talk with your Senator and encourage them to support [HB 366](#) (the enhanced revenue bill) in the House and work to find additional revenue to restore the cuts to public education.

Education Committee Update:

The House Education Committee met on Tuesday. Here is a recap of the action taken at the meeting.

[HB 40](#) An act relating to a day of prayer for students advanced from committee. This bill creates a new section of KRS Chapter 2 designating the last Wednesday in September of each year as A Day of Prayer for Kentucky's Students. *KEA is tracking this bill.*

[SB 101](#) An act relating to school district vacancies advanced from committee. This bill amends KRS 160.380 to reduce the vacancy notice required from a superintendent to the chief state school officer from 30 days to 15 days. *KEA is opposed to this bill.*

[HB 438](#) An act relating to innovation academies. This bill was thoroughly discussed by the committee. Due to the enormous amount of questions and uncertainty by committee members, this bill was not voted on. *KEA is opposed to this bill.*

The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday. A review of action taken at that meeting is below.

[SB 155](#) An act relating to education was amended by Senate Committee Substitute 1. Amends KRS 156.690 to insert gender-neutral language. The Committee Substitute included language regarding fingerprint and background check requirements for the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. *KEA is tracking this bill.*

[SB 231](#) An act relating to the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship and making an appropriation therefor advanced from committee with Senate Committee Substitute 1. Creates a new section of KRS 164.740 to 164.7891 to create the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship; require the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority to administer the scholarship in collaboration with the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet; define eligibility requirements for the scholarship; define the scholarship award amount; require the authority to prepare an annual report on the scholarship in collaboration with the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics; create the Work Ready Kentucky

Scholarship fund; confirm Executive Order 2017-434; APPROPRIATION. *KEA has no position on this bill.*

[HB 128](#) An act relating to instruction on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide advanced from committee. Amends KRS 156.160 to require every public middle and high school to provide instruction on the Holocaust and other acts of genocide. *KEA is tracking this bill.*

[HB 281](#) An act relating to proprietary education advanced from committee. Repeals and reenacts KRS 165A.310, relating to proprietary education, to delete outdated definitions and add definition of "license"; amend KRS 165A.330 to require renewal applications to be filed annually 45 days prior to the expiration date; amend KRS 165A.340 to require a biennial audit of the commission; expand the advertising requirements to be administered by the commission; delete the requirement for the commission to monitor programs and courses offered by licensed institutions; amend KRS 165A.370 to revise the minimum standards for licensure of proprietary schools; amend various sections of KRS Chapter 165A to conform.

KEA has no position on this bill.

[HB 290](#) An act relating to interscholastic athletics advanced from committee. Amends KRS 156.070 to require the state board or the agency designated by the state board to manage interscholastic athletics to allow a member school's team to play against students or a team from non-member, at-home private schools and establish the conditions under which this may occur. *KEA is opposed to this bill.*

[HB 360](#) An act relating to state agency children advanced from committee. Amends KRS 158.135 to include in the definition of "state agency children" those children referred by a family accountability, intervention, and response team to a Department of Juvenile Justice operated or contracted day treatment program. *KEA has no position on this bill.*

VOTE online now for NEA RA Delegates

Please make sure to vote for our NEA RA delegates. Voting is open until March 31st. Please click [here](#) to go directly to the voting page of our website.

Watch me on KET Monday night at 8 ET

I am scheduled to appear on KET's March 19th Kentucky Tonight program with Renee Shaw when we'll discuss the budget and public pension. I will be joined by:



- Dave Adkisson, president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Jason Bailey, executive director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
- Jordan Harris, founder and co-executive director of the Pegasus Institute

The program is live on KET and at KET.org/live at 8:00 pm ET for about an hour (56:30) from the studio at 600 Cooper Drive in Lexington. Viewers with questions and comments may send e-mail to kytonight@ket.org or use the message form at KET.org/kytonight. Viewers may also submit questions and comments on Twitter @KyTonightKET. The phone number for viewer questions during the program is 1-800-494-7605. All messages should include first and last name and town or county. Kentucky Tonight programs are available online at KET.org/kytonight and are rebroadcast on KET, KET KY, and radio.

Dates to Remember:



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| Mar. 31 | NEA RA Voting ends online |
| Apr. 4-6 | KEA Delegate Assembly, Louisville |
| Apr. 16 | Tax Day- Don't forget to deduct your KEA dues! |

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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