January 27, 2020

Dear Member:

Last week on the Hill, the #KYGA2020 wrapped up day 13 of the 60-day session on Friday. During the week, KEA welcomed members from the Northern Kentucky Education Association and Fayette County for Days 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 welcomed 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 at 800-231-4532 and let us know you are coming. We will have everything ready for you when you arrive.

During their meeting on Thursday, January 23, the Senate Education Committee passed Senate Bill 8. This bill updates SB1 (2019), commonly referred to as the "school safety bill." SB8 makes the following changes to SB1:

- Allows locked doors in instances such as one-on-one interactions between students and educators and allows waivers to be granted by the state school safety marshal when schools determine a need to keep other classroom doors unlocked.
- Requires School Resource Officers (SRO's), who must be sworn law enforcement officers, to carry a firearm.
- Requires each school campus, rather than each school building, to have a school resource officer.
- Directs districts to hire enough counselors or mental health professionals to have one for every 250 students. (The current ratio is roughly 1 counselor or mental health professional per every 400 students.)

Senate Bill 8 will be considered by the full Senate soon. Whatever happens with SB 8, KEA believes the General Assembly must fully fund the priorities laid out in both SB1 (2019) and SB8 (2020). It is currently estimated that it would take an appropriation of $18 million dollars for school districts to improve security infrastructures and another $121 million annually to fully staff schools as required by these bills.

Senate Bill 57 also passed out of the Senate Education Committee. This bill clarifies that schools addressing infrastructure needs through renovations are not required to include a new water fountain and water bottle filling machines. This was an impediment to some districts enacting reforms mandated in Senate Bill 1 (2019). SB57 will now go to the House.

Senate Bill 7 - SBDM Council Bill - KEA opposes this bill. SB7 is assigned to the Senate State and Local Government
Committee, but was not heard last week. This bill removes one (1) teacher member from the council and significantly constrains SBDM authority. KEA is closely watching this bill and will send out more information through special Presidents’ Points as this bill progresses.

The House Education Committee did not meet last week. House Ed will resume meeting this week at their regularly scheduled time of 8 a.m. (EST) on Tuesday morning.

This Week on the Hill

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

- House Education Committee- 8 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154
- House Appropriations & Revenue (House A&R) Committee-10 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 154

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

- Senate State & Local Government- Noon (EST), Annex Room 154

Thursday, January 30, 2020

- Senate Education Committee- 11:30 a.m. (EST), Annex Room 149

Governor’s Budget Address
On Tuesday, January 28, at 7 p.m. (EST), Governor Beshear will present his 2020-2022 biennial budget to a joint session of the General Assembly. The Governor’s budget reflects his priorities for the next two years and is his recommendation to the legislature. However, the House and Senate are not bound by the Governor’s recommendations and changes will certainly be made throughout the session. Governor Beshear's budget address will air live on KET, online and local media outlets. Click here to view the address live on KET.

Newly Filed Legislation

HB295 (KEA LOBBY TEAM TRACK) - Requires at least 25 minutes of student physical activity each school day for students up to grade 8; prioritizes free play activities outdoors.

HB296 (KEA LOBBY TEAM TRACK) - Requires each school district to provide comprehensive, age appropriate sex education instruction to all public-school students; establishes minimum requirements for the instruction.

HB301 (KEA OPPOSE) - Requires successful completion of a ½ credit course on financial literacy as a requirement for high school graduation.

HCR52 (KEA SUPPORT) - Establishes the Kentucky Preschool Program Task Force to study preschool programs; requires recommendations be reported by November 30, 2020.

HB312 - Requires the Kentucky Department of Education
(KDE) to develop more efficient procedures to enroll students in foster care who are transferring to a new school or district, and requires the sharing of information among schools, school districts, the CHFS, and a child's caseworker. For a complete list of bills and more information on bills tracked by KEA click here or visit the Issues and Action section of www.KEA.org.

**TRS Board of Trustee Nominations**

The TRS Nominating Committee is taking nominations for one (1) open seat on the Board of Trustees. Click here for more information, nomination requirements and the nomination form. Nominations may be submitted to TRSNomination@kea.org and will be accepted through 5 p.m. (EST) on February 7th, 2020. Any active TRS member is eligible to be nominated (or to self-nominate) for consideration by the nominating committee. All nominees' status as an active annuitant will be verified by TRS. Nominees who meet eligibility requirements will be reviewed by the committee and two (2) candidates will be placed on the ballot. In April and May 2020, active and retired TRS members will participate in an election to fill the open position on the board of trustees. Voting will include the option to vote electronically through the Pathway member self-service portal on the TRS website.

**KEA Scholarship Opportunities**

If you are an active KEA member you should check out the KEA Presidents’ Scholarship opportunities. Members can apply online for up to $1,000 in scholarship money to complete certification in one of the following areas: Rank II (Masters), Rank I (Beyond Master’s), National Board Certification or the Classified Continuing Education (must be an ESP member to apply) - the ESP scholarship award is based on the cost of the continuing education. All applicants must be a member of KEA. Deadline is Friday, February 14, 2019 5 p.m. (EST) (Scholarship award amounts vary by KEA District.) Click here for more information and to apply.

**KEA Teacher of the Year**

KEA takes pride in recognizing the many accomplishments of its members. Each year, KEA selects a Teacher of the Year who is recognized in front of his or her peers at the KEA Delegate Assembly in April. The winner receives $1000 and a commemorative item. The KEA Teacher of the Year is also submitted to NEA as a nominee for the NEA Teacher of the Year. If you know a teacher who represents excellence in the profession, encourage him or her to apply. Deadline is 5 p.m. (EST), Friday, February 14, 2020. Click here to apply.

**KEA ESP of the Year**

KEA is proud to count Education Support Professionals among its members. Each year, KEA selects an ESP of the Year, granting the award to someone who shows dedication to their profession and to public education. If you know an ESP who exemplifies excellence in the profession, encourage him or her to apply. KEA’s ESP of the Year will receive $1,000 and a
January 28  Governor's Budget Address - 7 p.m. (EST)

February 7  Nominations for TRS Board of Trustees due by 5 p.m. (EST)

February 14  KEA President Scholarships applications are due. Click here for more information on KEA scholarships

February 14  #DifferenceMakers Art Contest submissions due

February 15  TRS Nominating Committee meeting -- TRS Building

February 15  Nomination deadline for the Valvoline 2021 Kentucky Teacher of the Year; Click here for more information on how to nominate a teacher

Help Recruit Educators of Color to the Profession

Students of color have a better public school experience if they see teachers of color in the classroom. Recruiting college students of color to become teachers is an important focus of KEA's and NEA's work. NEA is looking for 20 members across the country to receive training and support to help them recruit and retain more people of color to become educators. To learn more and express your interest in participating, please fill out this form.

Deadline Extended! #DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest

Any public school student in grades P-12 is invited to submit one entry to our annual student art contest. The theme for the contest is #DifferenceMakers.

Students are asked to create a PORTRAIT of a public school employee that has made a difference in their life. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form. All entries must arrive at KEA, 401 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601 by 5 p.m. (EST) on Friday, February 14, 2020. Please write "#DifferenceMakers Entry" on the outside of the envelope. Entries will be displayed at the Kentucky Department of Education.

One student in each grade span will win $50 and their teacher will also win a $50 prize. The #DifferenceMaker will receive the students' original framed artwork.

Save the Date
Sincerely,

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