



Issues Update

March 17, 2016

Issues Update is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and presented on its website, www.kacteonline.org. As needed, *Issues Update* will report on state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy and legislative developments. KACTE and Stone can be reached at kmstone1951@gmail.com or 502-223-1823.

KACTE Monitors General Assembly, Town Hall; Visits DC

2016 General Assembly Session

Legislative action moved slowly prior to the March 8 special elections to fill vacancies in four Kentucky House of Representatives districts. With Democrats winning three of the four seats, their majority is 53-47, thus retaining control of the House for the remainder of the session. With that certainty, the activity increased in the dwindling days of the session.

Most attention now focuses on the main piece of legislation required to be passed and sent to Governor Matt Bevin by April 15, the 2016-18 biennial budget bill, **HB303**. The Governor made the first proposal, submitting his funding plan largely as a concept with few specifics. (Please see *Issues Update*, Feb. 19, 2016, <http://www.kacteonline.org/cms-assets/documents/237219-741319.issues-update-2-19-16.pdf>.) Since then, legislators in both the House and Senate and from both political parties have held committee meetings with administration testimony to determine the budget specifics.

For Career and Technical Education (CTE), the impact of the Governor's proposal would be felt through the Department of Education, which includes funding for the Kentucky TECH system of area technology centers. A 4.5 percent cut to the Department of Education in the current fiscal year, and a 9 percent cut in each year of the coming biennium, could cause staff and support reductions. The proposed funding reductions also apply to postsecondary education. Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Jay Box, Ph.D., testified on how the cuts would reduce staff and programs and lead to a tuition increase.

THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL exempted K-12 education SEEK funding from cuts and proposed a \$100 million bond issue for "workforce education," which was undefined. The big recipient of proposed funding were the state's public employee and teacher retirement funds.

The House approved its substitute version of **HB303** on March 16 on a 53-0 vote (which means Republicans abstained from voting). The primary recipients of additional funding were the retirement funds. In fact, the House version directs more money toward retirement contributions than the Governor. Compared to the current fiscal year, the Governor's proposal increased contributions to the Kentucky

Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) by about \$300 million. The House increase is about \$500 million.

The House rejected the 4.5 percent cut to the current fiscal year spending, but did keep the 9 percent cut overall for each year of the biennium; however, it maintained essentially level funding for both the Department of Education and postsecondary education.

It kept the same funding for K-12 education based on \$3,981 per pupil average daily attendance. Within the Department of Education budget, CTE transportation was earmarked for the same funding as the current year, \$2.4 million, and the Kentucky TECH system also was earmarked for the same as current, \$22.8 million. The Kentucky State Board of Education requested increases for these items. Unknown is whether level funding of the Department of Education budget without increases could result in trickle-down impacts to professional development, support services, programs and initiatives.

FOR MOST PROGRAMS earmarked in the budget, the funding levels are identical to the current fiscal year. This includes ACT and WorkKeys testing at \$1.2 million, \$11.9 million for professional development, \$720,000 for teacher professional growth fund, \$16.7 million for instructional resources, and \$1.3 million for teacher recruitment and retention. The Governor's proposed \$100 million bond issue for workforce education was not included. Funding was included to pay for **HB626**, which would establish a Work Ready Kentucky scholarship providing up to six semesters of free KCTCS tuition for qualifying courses of study.

The budget bill now goes to the Senate, which will amend the bill to fit its vision, likely to be adopted about April 1, followed by a conference committee to negotiate differences. The Governor indicated he would participate in crafting a signable bill, but he has insisted the funding parameters he proposed, including the cuts in the biennium, be honored. KACTE will continue its efforts to inform legislators and administration of the important contributions of CTE to Kentucky.

SB1, an educational accountability overhaul led by Senate Education Committee Chair Mike Wilson (Please see summary at <http://www.kacteonline.org/cms-assets/documents/235225-167447.2016-cte-legislation.pdf>), has received the most discussion among proposed education

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legislation. It passed the Senate easily on the vote of the majority Republicans. Its fate in the House is less certain. House Education Committee Chair Derrick Graham has written that the changes proposed in **SB1** are premature. He suggests the effects of the recently passed federal **Every Student Succeeds Act** should be assessed before moving legislation. Kentucky State Board of Education Chair Roger Marcum echoed this position in a published commentary. Marcum referenced the on-going education town hall meetings in his commentary.

Education Town Hall Meetings

The first of 11 Education Town Hall Meetings scheduled by Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, Ph.D., was held in Shelbyville on March 14. Approximately 100 attendees participated in what the Commissioner described as a listening session. He and other Department of Education staff members offered a short presentation on the purpose of the sessions to gather input leading to a redesign of the state's educational accountability system.

Driven in part by the newly reauthorized federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act -- **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** -- the session focused on the question: How does Kentucky define school success? Pruitt said: "ESSA provides an opportunity to create a new assessment and accountability system that will be fair, reliable, easier to understand, and more meaningful to kids." He challenged the attendees to present what we value as Kentuckians in a public education system.

"We can't create a new system without the people who will (work) in the system," he explained. "Why build a system that doesn't matter to the people who work in it?" He said his hallmarks are equity, achievement and integrity. There is a guarantee that every single child has a quality education; that every child has opportunity. The proposal for the new system is due September 2017. In addition to the listening sessions, written comments may be sent to KyEdListens@education.ky.gov.

THE COMMENT PORTION of the session was guided by the overarching question: **How does Kentucky define schools success?** There are five sub-questions:

- What to you expect from our schools?
- What school characteristics are most important?
- How should we measure school success?
- How do we ensure all schools are successful?
- How should we celebrate student success?

About 20 speakers responded to the questions. They identified themselves as representing nurses, physical education instructors, early childhood specialists, psychologists, principals, librarians, automotive instructors, educational consultants, historians, counselors, board members and music teachers. Several noted they were parents, but all speakers had some tie to Kentucky's public education system. Notable in absence were private sector business and industry. In addition to the automotive

instructor, one other speaker stressed the importance of education that leads to a career.

Ten additional listening sessions are scheduled through April. The Commissioner is providing an open forum to voice concerns or suggestions about Kentucky's public education system. Failure to participate provides an opportunity for your ideas to be ignored. The new accountability system will shape educational policy for many years. Be present and speak up to make your views known. The remaining schedule is:

- March 22, **Campbellsville**, at Campbellsville University Gheens Recital Hall.
- March 29, **Owensboro**, at Daviess County High School Auditorium.
- March 31, **Hazard**, at Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative.
- April 7, **Lexington**, at Kentucky High School Athletic Association.
- April 11, **Corbin**, at Southeast/Southcentral Educational Cooperative-Corbin Center.
- April 18, **Ashland**, at Kentucky Educational Development Corporation Ashland Conference Center.
- April 21, **Louisville**, at Seneca High School Magnet Career Academy-Stickler Theatre.
- April 25, **Northern Kentucky**, at Northern Kentucky University James C. and Rachel M. Vortuba Student Union Ballroom.
- April 27, **Bowling Green**, at GRREC Offices and Training Center.
- April 28, **Murray**, at Murray Middle School Auditorium.

"This doesn't end tonight," Commissioner Pruitt said at the conclusion of the session. "We need you to stay engaged."

KACTE in DC



Meeting with U.S. District 2 Representative Brett Guthrie, fourth from left, on Feb. 29, are, from left, KACTE officials Traci Blanford, Washington County High School; Daniel Bustle, Locust Trace High School; KACTE President Lee Ann Daugherty, Butler County High School; Representative Guthrie; Sharon Collins, Warren East Middle School; and Elizabeth Bullock, Office of Career and Technical Education.

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Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) members Traci Blanford, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Washington County High School; Elizabeth Bullock, KACTE Representative to Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Region 2 Policy Committee, and Health Sciences Program Consultant, Kentucky Office of Career and Technical Education; Daniel Bustle, Agriculture Teacher, Locust Trace High School, Lexington, Ky.; Sharon Collins, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Warren East Middle School, Bowling Green; Lee Ann Daugherty, KACTE President, and Agriculture Teacher, Butler County High School; Mark Hobbs, KACTE President-Elect, and Trade and Industrial Teacher, Harrison County Area Technology Center; Dexter Knight, KACTE Liaison Committee Chair, and Principal, Jessamine Career Technology Center; Jimmy Powell, KACTE Agriculture Vice President, and Agriculture Teacher, George Rogers Clark High School; Kris Stone, KACTE Assistant Executive Director; and Mike Stone, KACTE Executive Director, attended the 2016 ACTE National Policy Seminar February 29-March 2.

Visits were made to the offices of both U.S. senators and six U.S. representatives. Meetings were held in person with four of the representatives: Brett Guthrie, District 2; John Yarmuth, District 3; Thomas Massie, District 4; and Andy Barr, District 6. Team members met with staff of two representatives: Ed Whitfield, District 1, and Hal Rogers, District 5, and the staff of both senators, Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell.

KACTE USED AN UPDATED data handout to emphasize CTE effectiveness and improvement since the last reauthorization of the **Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act**. KACTE also used a newly developed rack card highlighting CTE's essential link to economic development, and included information on Kentucky CTE innovations and success stories in the leave-behind package. (For copies of these advocacy tools, please e-mail kmstone1951@gmail.com.)



Meeting with U.S. District 3 Representative Thomas Massie, third from left, on March 1, are, from left, KACTE officials Elizabeth Bullock, Office of Career and Technical Education; KACTE President-Elect Mark Hobbs, Harrison County Area Technology Center; Representative Massie; Traci Blanford, Washington County High School; KACTE President Lee Ann Daugherty, Butler County High School; and Sharon Collins, Warren East Middle School.

KACTE stressed that the Perkins Act is essential, and adequate appropriations are critical. KACTE described Perkins as a model piece of federal-state legislation. Without the existence of the Perkins Act setting national goals for CTE, some states and local areas might have abandoned CTE instruction in the rush during the 1960s-90s to force baccalaureate achievement.

KACTE noted Kentucky's share of Perkins funding is almost \$2 million less in 2014 than in 2010. In a time when state budgets threaten CTE, the federal appropriation is more critical than ever. Also, reauthorization of the Perkins Act is important to continue momentum on behalf of CTE and ensure CTE remains an essential component of a comprehensive educational system. KACTE pointed out ACTE's suggestions for Perkins reauthorization. For more detail on Perkins appropriations and reauthorization, please visit the ACTE website, <http://www.acteonline.org/policy/#.VusH2ShQkUU>.



Our Mission: Student Success

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