



Issues Update

May 26, 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.

2016-18 Budget Set; Perkins Reauthorization, Kentucky News

The 2016 Kentucky General Assembly session is over. Governor Matt Bevin issued his vetoes, and the biennial budget for July 1, 2016-June 30, 2018, is in place for Kentucky state government. As middle schools, high schools, career technical/technology centers, and postsecondary institutions finish their instructional years, legislative and policy developments do not end. For Career and Technical Education (CTE), the pace is quickening.

General Assembly Recap

It took until the last day of the 2016 General Assembly session to finalize a budget, and passage on that date allowed the Governor to issue vetoes without the possibility of being overridden. KACTE tracked 23 numbered bills related to CTE introduced during the session. (Please see <http://www.kacteonline.org/archives.php> for the list and results.) Only four passed, and one of those was vetoed by Gov. Bevin. **HB158** expanded the availability of Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships (KEES). **SB228** defined bullying and required school board action to enforce. **HB626** was vetoed; it created the Kentucky Work Ready Scholarship program. (More about this program follows.)

The most important legislation was adopting the 2016-18 biennial budget, which was a free conference committee report of **HB303**. The Governor accepted most of the compromises included by the Senate and House of Representatives. More than \$1 billion was earmarked to support the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System and the Kentucky Employees Retirement System.

The Senate accepted the House position on basic K-12 education funding. Essentially, that leaves K-12 education funded at current levels. The two sides compromised on a 4.5 percent cut to postsecondary education, including the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The Governor proposed a 9 percent cut to postsecondary education. The Governor, who issued an early executive order to cut postsecondary spending in the current fiscal year, lowered the cut to 2 percent in the 2015-16 budget.

INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET is authority for the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to issue \$100 million in bonds for a "workforce development construction pool." Proposed originally for "workforce education," the bond authority was not included in either

the House or Senate budgets originally passed. It was included in the free conference report, and approved by the Governor. There are no details on what the bonds will fund.

The Governor issued a line-item veto to remove the first-year funding for Kentucky Work Ready Scholarships, which would have been created by the vetoed **HB626**. However the Governor let stand the 2017-18 scholarship funding of \$15.9 million. His veto message indicated his support for the concept, but he suggested better authorizing legislation be passed in the 2017 General Assembly session.

The 2017 Kentucky General Assembly will meet in its 30-day session beginning Jan. 3. The partisan composition and committee structure and chairs will be determined after the general elections scheduled for Nov. 8.

Perkins Act Reauthorization

It appears the federal *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* may be reauthorized this year. The chairs and ranking minority members of both the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Workforce Committee and the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee indicated interest in passing the legislation named for the late and long-serving Eastern Kentucky Rep. Carl Perkins. The *Perkins Act* sets the national intent for CTE, provides oversight, and funds innovation, equipment and professional development.

On its annual visit to Washington for the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) National Policy Seminar, the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) officers and representatives met with each member of Kentucky's congressional delegation or their staff. KACTE's message was the importance of the Perkins Act, both for program guidance and accountability, and for funding. KACTE pointed out the *Perkins Act* is a model of federal-state partnership. The federal government sets the overall vision. States and localities implement the programs to meet local needs. The federal funding is less than 7 percent of overall CTE funding, but it spurs program innovation, best practices and enhancement because it only is available if the use meets the legislative guidelines.

continued on back

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Kentucky's congressional delegation will be prominent in the *Perkins Act* reauthorization process and subsequent funding decisions. Representatives Brett Guthrie, District 2, and John Yarmuth, District 3, are members of the House Education and Workforce Committee. Senator Rand Paul is a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Representative Hal Rogers, District 5, is chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Senator Mitch McConnell, in addition to his duties as Senate Majority Leader, is a ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE GUTHRIE indicated the likelihood of *Perkins Act* reauthorization at two roundtable discussions he held in Bowling Green and Harrodsburg in early May. He invited secondary and postsecondary CTE representatives to discuss their concerns with the *Perkins Act* and offer suggestions for improvements in the reauthorization. KACTE worked with Rep. Guthrie's staff in identifying the roundtable sites. KACTE will monitor the progress and communicate with Congress as necessary to encourage reauthorization and adequate funding. For more detail on *Perkins Act* reauthorization and changes suggested by ACTE based on national input, please go to <https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=687#.V0cb5ShQkUU>.

ACTE prepared an infographic for use in promoting CTE and Perkins Act funding and reauthorization. A copy is posted on the KACTE website at <http://www.kacteonline.org/archives.php>.

Owensboro Community and Technical College is one of 44 postsecondary institutions across the United States selected to participate in a pilot program allowing secondary students in dual credit and concurrent enrollment programs to access Pell Grants.

CTE Advances in Kentucky

An indication of the growing recognition of the importance of CTE in Kentucky's educational system may be seen in Gov. Bevin's appointments to the Kentucky State Board of Education. Of the five new appointees, four have direct ties to business or workforce development education.

Alesa Johnson, Somerset, Associate Dean, Somerset Community College, develops partnerships for workforce readiness. Rich Gimmel, Louisville, is chairman of Atlas Machine and Supply, which has a machine-tool partnership with Breckinridge County Area Technology Center. Milton Seymore, Louisville, is a pastor and a retired Ford Motor Co. employee. Ben Cundiff, Cadiz, is a chemical engineer and attorney with a long history of educational involvement. The fifth appointee is Gary Houchens, Bowling Green, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research at Western Kentucky University.

Continuing of the Board are Grayson Boyd, Paintsville, a retired educator; Samuel Hinkle, Shelby County, an attorney; Roger Marcum, Bardstown, a retired

educational administrator; Nawanna Privett, Lexington, a former educator and a consultant; William Twyman, Glasgow, a semi-retired educator now a consultant; and Mary Gwen Wheeler, Louisville, Executive Director of an educational partner.

CTE WILL BE PROMINENT in Kentucky's new accountability system according to comments offered by Commissioner of Education Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D., at a joint meeting of the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Business/Education Alignment Committee and the Business Industry Task Force formed by the Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE). The meeting was held in Elizabethtown on May 12.

"Now's the time for change," Pruitt said noting the new federal *Every Student Succeeds Act* opens the door for new accountability models. He said it cannot be a system to train students for jobs that do not exist just because that is the way classes always have been taught. "It's not just about test scores. It's not just about math and English. Do they (students) have a future?" regardless of whether it is a job or college.

"Tear down the walls," he suggested, saying there cannot be an academic side and a career and technical side. It's the child's side that is important. He stressed the goal is, "getting kids prepared to do the job and for life."

Gathering statewide input was the goal of the Commissioner's listening sessions held across the state in March and April. A timeline for implementation of the new accountability system was presented at the April State Board of Education meeting. Workgroups will be drafting a proposal through October. Public comment on the proposed system will take place in November. The proposed system will be aligned with federal regulations in December and presented to the State Board through January-March 2017. Development of regulations and U.S. Dept. of Education review will follow, with the new system being in place by August 2017.

THE MAY 12 KWIB/CTE TASK FORCE meeting focused on industry certifications. Kentucky Community and Technical College Chancellor Rhonda Tracy, Ph.D., presented the findings of an essential skills survey of employers. Matt Chaliff, OCTE, presented the results of its CTE Task Force survey on what employers want. The results were similar. Employers are seeking from potential employees: work ethic, critical thinking and problem solving, speaking and listening, teamwork, and integrity. KACTE is preparing a research paper to include teacher and student perspectives on industry certifications. It is hoped ~~this information can support use of the \$100 million workforce construction bond for CTE purposes.~~

Program updates reflecting the legislative, administrative and policy decisions noted above will be presented at the 2016 Kentucky CTE Summer Program in Louisville, July 17-20. For more information or registration