



Proposed legislative program recommended to the 2011 KEA Delegate Assembly
by the Government Relations Committee

VISION:

Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

MISSION:

We unite, organize, and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

Legislative goals:

- 1. Advocate for equitable and adequate funding required to implement SB1, the ambitious education reform initiative passed by the 2009 General Assembly.***

KEA supports:

- Ensuring that the SEEK formula fully funds a high quality education for every public school student in the Commonwealth.
- Supporting revenue enhancement including but not limited to the following provisions; increasing the tax rate in higher income categories, lowering the tax rate in lower income categories, establishing a refundable earned income tax credit (EITC) based on the federal EITC, and taxing more discretionary services.
- Restoring Flexible Focus funds to at least 2008 levels.

- 2. Advocate for a high quality education for every public school student in the Commonwealth.***

KEA supports:

- Ensuring all pre-K through 12 classroom instruction in Kentucky is provided by teachers certified in the subject area being taught.
- Providing state funded pre-school programs for all three- and four-year old children.
- Mandating children should be 5 years old by June 1 to enter kindergarten.
- Guaranteeing all children have access to arts and humanities and practical living and career studies classes taught by an appropriately certified teacher.

- E. Continuing to allow school districts to determine the start and end dates of their school calendar.
- F. Establishing indoor air quality standards for public schools.
- G. Requiring recycling of materials in all school districts.
- H. Establishing high standards and accountability for home-schooled students.
- I. Establishing the deadline for bringing classes within maximum size at twenty (20) days after the first student attendance day.
- J. Maintaining that SBDM councils select principals.
- K. Opposing adding requirements to a curriculum without SBDM approval.
- L. Opposing the creation of charter schools unless they provide high quality instruction, allow equal access to all students and do not harm existing public schools.
- M. Mandating that any new state education initiative is not required to be implemented without adequate funding and support.
- N. Advocating for a student assessment system that uses formative assessment process to improve instruction; measures higher order thinking skills; includes multiple, high quality measures of student learning; holds students accountable; and links directly to the curriculum.
- O. Providing all school employees with adequate information and support to implement high quality assessment and accountability systems.
- P. Adopting an accountability system that is proven effective by research, does not produce unintended consequences, is easy to understand, delays consequences until its validity and reliability are established, uses multiple measures, provides appropriate information to the public, and is not dependent on any single assessment device.
- Q. Providing assistance to priority schools that builds capacity at the school; provides advisory assistance; requires meaningful involvement of school staff, students and parents; preserves due process; includes significant support and professional development; provides adequate compensation for additional work and time; and is differentiated to the needs of the school, students and staff.

3. Advocate for a strong profession.

KEA supports:

- A. Requiring that the school term cannot be extended without a commensurate increase in compensation for school employees.
- B. Requiring the school council to approve any extension to the school day which shall not be granted without a commensurate increase in compensation for school employees.
- C. Securing a minimum of three days of personal leave annually, with unused days converting to sick leave.
- D. Providing financial assistance and professional support for all teachers pursuing rank change or National Board Certification.
- E. Restoring school employees' rights to fully participate in school board elections.
- F. Securing collective bargaining for all school employees.
- G. Securing a process by which each local board of education may confer exclusive representation to the association with the largest number of members in the district.
- H. Prohibiting verbal or physical assault of all school personnel.
- I. Establishing time limits by which the Education Professional Standards Board must provide due process to certified personnel who are the subject of complaints to that body.
- J. Providing that the Education Professional Standards Board take disciplinary action based upon the standard of "clear and convincing evidence."
- K. Prohibiting the Education Professional Standards Board from taking action against a teacher when criminal charges that form the basis for a complaint to the agency are dismissed or the teacher is acquitted after a trial.
- L. Expanding recall rights for laid off school employees.
- M. Ensuring teacher contract time and student instructional time are measured by the same standard.
- N. Prohibiting abuse of teacher time.
- O. Establishing professional leave for attendance at state level education related meetings and school related legal proceedings.
- P. Opposing any form of pay based on student performance.

- Q. Requiring all first year teachers to complete KTIP and to have training in pedagogy and classroom management.
 - R. Adding an additional teacher and a classified employee to SBDM councils.
 - S. Providing area technology center employees the same rights in decision making as local school district teachers.
 - T. Prohibiting the practice of unnecessary annual non-renewal of limited contract employees.
 - U. Providing for a statewide reduction in student teaching fees for pre-service teachers.
 - V. Requiring the superintendent or designated evaluator to consult with the members of the school council before completing the principal's growth plan or evaluation.
- 4. *Advocate for adequate school employee compensation, sufficient retirement benefits and affordable health insurance for public school employees and their dependents.***
- A. Developing a compressed minimum state teacher's salary schedule with a required local contribution and equity between teachers and administrators on an index beginning at \$40,000 per year.
 - B. Providing a living wage and a compressed salary schedule for all classified school employees.
 - C. Fully funding the annual Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for all retired employees and maintaining the fiscal integrity of the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System (KTRS) and the Kentucky Retirement System (KRS).
 - D. Preventing reduction in school employee annual compensation.
 - E. Providing quality, affordable health insurance for public school employees, retirees, and their dependents.