

KEA President's Points

August 24, 2016



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,

KEA is always looking for ways to get our members involved in leadership roles. Please find below three ways in which you can help make your voice be heard in some critical instructional areas.

Para educators needed for ESSA input



KEA is currently accepting nominations for Para educators who would like to be a part of a one-time convening to give feedback on how this vital role in public schools can help advance the principles behind the new Every Student Succeeds Act. If you are interested in this work and are a Kentucky public school para educator, please

send an email of interest to keapresident@kea.org and put **ESSA Paraeducator Work** in the subject line. Please include the district where you work and the grade level of the students you work with on a daily basis.

Proposed Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation Delayed Pending Further Review

As a result of an ongoing and collaborative feedback process conducted with shareholders across Kentucky, the proposed ***Social Studies Standards for the Next Generation*** are pending further review during the 2016-17 school year. These future-oriented standards, built from a vision crafted in 2013, present the opportunity to transform social studies education in Kentucky. The standards have undergone revisions based on the input and feedback received from more than 2,000 people involved in focus groups, open online surveys and feedback captured during the Social Studies Leadership Networks. In order to ensure educators have the necessary resources to support the revised standards, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will be seeking additional input and feedback during the 2016-17 school year. This will further ensure Kentucky social studies teachers and students have the most relevant, flexible and forward-thinking standards.

A number of mechanisms for gathering input and feedback are

being developed and information will be shared on this website and through additional KDE communication channels throughout the school year. Please note that until new standards are adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education, there will be no changes to social studies assessments for the 2016-17 school year. All social studies assessments in place during the 2015-16 school year will remain a part of the statewide accountability system for 2016-17.

Questions on this matter should be directed to Karen Kidwell via e-mail at karen.kidwell@education.ky.gov.

Writing Program Advisory Committee Vacancy, Applications for Membership Being Accepted

KRS 158.770 requires that a Writing Program Advisory Committee be established. The committee is composed of nine members appointed by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with the majority of members being educators currently employed by districts or universities. The purpose of the committee is to analyze the program of studies of grades seven through 10 and make recommendations to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) concerning all areas related to writing programs. The committee typically meets once per year.

Writing Program Advisory Committee member nominations are now being accepted by KDE. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for consideration to serve as a member of the Kentucky Writing Project, please submit a *resume* and *cover letter* explaining your background and interest in serving on the board by **August 31, 2016** to Leann Pickerill at leann.pickerill@education.ky.gov

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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