

KEA President's Points

July 20, 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,
In this issue of President's Points, I need every member to turn their attention to Congress. Three very important issues need your attention. I encourage you, while you have some time this summer, to send a letter to both our KY Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, as well as your local Congressmen. Please find information about each of these important issues below. Your voice matters- together our voices are even stronger!



ESSA Comment period open until August 1, 2016

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) is accepting public comment on proposed ESSA regulations. Individuals may read the proposed regulations on accountability, state plans, and data reporting and submit comments [here](#). **The deadline to do so is August 1.** So far, about 4,000 comments have been offered.

Individuals may read proposed regulations on assessment and a new innovative assessment demonstration pilot and submit comments [here](#). **The deadline is September 9.**

Did you know as a teacher in KY you won't receive Social Security?

Almost every week I receive a call from someone that is currently employed in a Kentucky School District and has just learned that they will be greatly penalized for their public service. Why? Because once they are vested in KTRS, they forfeit their full Social Security benefits they may have earned in previous employment. They are also not entitled to their spousal SS death benefits. And all because they chose to teach and make a difference.

NEA and KEA are constant advocates of repeal of both the GPO (Government Pension Offset) and WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) laws. The NEA website is the place to learn more about how you might be affected and how to advocate for repeal of these penalties for public service. Please visit <http://www.nea.org/home/16491.htm> to learn more. To take action by sending a message to Congress at <http://tinyurl.com/hrax42n>

Kentucky Kids could lose out on meals at school

A bill in Congress could cut a program Kentucky has used to dramatically increase the number of students eating breakfast and lunch at school. The Community Eligibility Provision lets schools in high poverty areas make meals available to all students, without individual eligibility paperwork. House Bill 5003 would impact more than 7,000 schools and 3.4 million students nationwide. Kentucky students would feel the effects if the legislation becomes law.

Please visit the NEA Legislative Action Center [here](#) and send your message to Congress to help our students be successful at school and not have to worry about being hungry.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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