

# KEA President's Points

June 7, 2017



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,

This issue of President's Points is dedicated to topics related to Social Studies. We just celebrated Kentucky's 225th Birthday last week, followed by the anniversary of D-Day yesterday, and Flag Day is coming up on June 14th. All these events got me to thinking about how to reach out to all those who work every day to keep our kids civic minded. Below please find several articles that might help you keep you up to date on civic education and also honor those colleagues who fight for the Social Studies to be a part of every child's learning experience in K-12 education.

**Important Reminder!** *President's Points will be sent only twice a month over the summer. Please take note that it will resume as a weekly publication the first week of August.*

## KCSS Seeks Nominations for Outstanding Social Studies Teacher Award

The Kentucky Council of Social Studies is accepting nominations for an outstanding Social Studies teacher. Administrators, parents, colleagues, students, former students, and community members are encouraged to nominate an outstanding Social Studies teacher using the [attached nomination packet](#) for more details. The deadline is **September 1, 2017**.

## Interested in learning about what might be in a Special Legislative Session?

After a decade of budget cuts and another looming shortfall, it's clear we need to clean up the special interest tax breaks that riddle our tax code. **Kentucky Together** is a coalition and public education campaign pursuing the opportunity to invest in what builds thriving communities -- and we can do that by cleaning up the tax code. Please join us on Tuesday, **June 13** at noon for an online webinar launching Kentucky Together.

[Register Here](#) The governor and legislative leaders are considering calling a special legislative session to address tax and pension reform later this year. We agree with the governor that Kentucky needs to raise additional revenue. Kentucky needs to do so to meet our obligations to retirees and for other public investments that help us all -- education, roads and bridges, healthcare and housing to name a few. But moving Kentucky to a "consumption-based" tax system, as the

Governor says he wants to do, has had disastrous results in other states and there is no reason to believe a tax shift would yield different results here. To find out how you can raise your voice, or [visit our website to learn more](#).

## KDE to Host Civics Symposium

KDE will host the 2017 Kentucky Civics Symposium to promote best practices in civics education. This symposium will occur 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ET in three locations across the state:

- June 19 - Frankfort, Old Capitol Building and Kentucky Historical Society
- July 10 - Elizabethtown, Hardin County Schools Early College and Career Center
- July 14 - Ashland, Kentucky Educational Development Corporation

Join us as speakers provide educators with hands-on support in creating civics curricula with robust, relevant learning experiences for students to promote the "doing" of social studies through action civics. You can:

- Learn new social studies-related strategies that engage and motivate students;
- Dig into effective strategies for improved student achievement; and
- Gain a deeper understanding of civics best practices.

Information regarding the new citizenship test will be provided. Register for this event by clicking [here](#). For more information contact [Lauren Gallicchio](#), KDE's social studies consultant.

## Legislature passes law to require Civics Test for HS Graduation

In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 159 (2017). The law reads that beginning in July 2018, a student must pass a civics test composed of 100 questions in order to graduate from a public high school with a regular diploma. Each local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an exam that must be composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test. Students are required to score 60% or higher and may retake the exam as many times as deemed necessary to pass the test. The US Citizenship and Immigration Services Test items are available [here](#). The full text of the bill can be found [here](#). Critical highlights include:

- Local boards of education and charter school governing bodies may decide how the test is administered and implemented.
- Students must correctly answer at least 60 of the 100 questions on the civics test.
- Students may retake the test as many times as necessary to pass.

- Local boards of education will determine how the passing grade will be documented.
- A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five years is not required to take the test.
- Schools must administer this test in accordance with the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.

KDE will be preparing additional guidance and resources to districts and schools in the next couple of months so that ample time for planning and preparation for administration is provided.

### Dates to Remember:



- June 12/13** TALK Conference, Lexington
- June 16/17** RESPECT Conference, Florence
- June 18** Father's Day
- July 3-7** KEA Offices Closed for NEA Rep Assembly
- July 16/17/18** Local President's + Next Generation Leader Conference, Lexington

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

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