

# KEA President's Points

February 2, 2018

Dear Member,

## PENSION NEWS

Many keep asking me, "Have you seen a pension bill?" The answer is still, no. A pension bill has yet to be introduced by the House or Senate as of today. Legislators are focused on the state budget and other possible revenue streams. As soon as any pension bill is released KEA will make sure to send out an alert to that affect.

## BUDGET NEWS:

The House Sub Committee on K-12 Education met on Wednesday. Kentucky Education Commissioner Pruitt and two of his K-12 budget office colleagues made a presentation to the committee on impacts the Governor's Budget proposal would have on kids and our local schools. The news was very disheartening. We all know the realities we will face in our work sites if more revenue is not found to fund public education in the Commonwealth.

Many retired educators have called and asked if the Governor's proposal to eliminate the state portion of retiree health insurance is likely. The answer is also no. Many legislators we talk to understand that in 2010 the "Shared Responsibility" plan passed by that legislature agreed to put in their part, along with employees and school districts, to pay more towards retiree health care into a separate fund for that very purpose. This has been a very successful fix to prefunding retiree health care for teachers. A fund that had \$0 in 2010 has now grown to 27% prefunded in just seven short years. There is no reason at all why any teacher should have to worry about health care during retirement. KEA will continue to advocate strongly on this issue and keep you updated if things change.

On **Monday, Feb. 5th at 8:00 pm ET**, KET will have a



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.

### Quick Links

[Pension Information](#)

[KEA Scholarships](#)

[Dodson-Perkins Scholarship](#)

[KEA Teacher of the Year Award](#)

[KEA ESP of the Year Award](#)

[#DIFFERENCEMAKERS Contest](#)

### Join Our List

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discussion on the Governor's proposed budget on KY Tonight. Please tune in to hear the discussion and submit questions via twitter or the KET website.

## Bill Watch

The House Education Committee did not meet on Tuesday.

The Senate Education Committee met on Thursday. A review of action taken at that meeting is below.

[SB 69](#) - S. West, D. Givens, R. Alvarado, D. Carroll, M. Wise (**KEA Opposes this bill**)

Amend KRS 161.770 to specify that a board of education must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, and any other applicable federal law in placing a teacher or superintendent on leave due to a physical or mental disability; prohibit a board from requesting unnecessary medical information or disclosing any medical information; amend KRS 161.790 to clarify the causes for which a contract of a teacher may be terminated; require an attorney to serve as hearing officer and chairman of the tribunal; remove the lay person from the tribunal; establish selection and training requirements for hearing officers; establish a prehearing conference for motions and mediation; establish tribunal's decision as a recommended order and allow parties to file exceptions to recommended order; allow hearing officer to respond to exceptions by entering original recommended order or an amended order as a final order; limit decisions to upholding or overturning the decision of the superintendent.

[SB 101](#)- M. Wise (**KEA OPPOSES this bill**)

Amend KRS 160.380 to reduce the vacancy notice required from a superintendent to the chief state school officer from 30 days to 15 days. Calls for the printing of the KY Education Law books to be printed for legislators and makes them available online. This bill also requires school board members to submit a transcript as proof of high school graduation.

Looking for an easy way to keep track of the status of bills filed? Want to know the daily schedule of what's happening at the Capitol? Do you want to be able to watch the House and Senate proceeding live? Then these websites should be bookmarked as favorites, or made as apps on your phone:

<http://www.kea.org/issues-action> , [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov) and <https://www.ket.org/legislature/> . These three sites are very helpful in keeping track of what's going on in Frankfort and is updated every 24 hours.

We must continue to let legislators know that we are paying attention. Please call your legislator at **1-800-372-7181!** Remember that snow days are the perfect opportunity to join us at the Capitol! KEA's team of lobbyists will be there every day and we love having company. Please make plans to attend your Day of Learning and join us on days when school is canceled due to weather if at all possible to do so safely.

### Kentucky Teacher of the Year Applications due by Feb.15th

The Kentucky Department of Education and Valvoline Inc., sponsors of the Kentucky Teacher Awards, have opened the nomination process for the 2019 awards. Nominations may be submitted electronically at [kentuckytoy.com](http://kentuckytoy.com) and are **due by Feb. 15**. Any full-time public school teacher in the state with at least three years of experience is eligible. Teachers may be nominated by students, parents, teaching peers, principals, superintendents or anyone from the community who has an interest in honoring an outstanding educator.

### KDE Seeks Feedback on Social Studies Standards; needs teachers for workgroup

KDE is seeking feedback on the Social Studies Standards. They also seek teachers willing to serve on a taskforce to revise new standards in this area. For details and deadlines please [refer to this document](#).

### Dates to Remember:



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|-----------------|--|
| <b>February</b> | Gifted and Talented Awareness Month<br>Black History Month                           |
| <b>Feb. 10</b>  | <b>NEW DEADLINE-</b> for submission of #DIFFERENCEMAKERS Student Art Contest entries |
| <b>Feb. 16</b>  | Deadline for KEA Teacher and ESP of the Year Nominations                             |

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

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