

KEA President's Points

January 18, 2018



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,
Governor Bevin presented his State of the Commonwealth Budget Address on Tuesday night. Please read the press release KEA sent to the media in response to the budget proposal [here](#). As we continue to dig into the details of this proposal, we are finding that much of the budget savings is being found by imposing local school districts (and ultimately school employees) with the burden of funding for pensions and other essential state government services/programs. KEA is in support of the \$3.3 billion proposed for funding pensions, but we must continue to advocate for tax reform or other new revenue streams that will fund our state's needs now and well into the future. Please take time to look at the [Governor's budget proposal](#) and a great analysis by [KCEP](#).

PENSION NEWS

A pension reform bill has yet to be introduced by the House or Senate. There have been drafts of bills that were sent to for scoring but that is the only information we can confirm. I assure you that KEA will send out timely and accurate updates on any pension bills that may be introduced.

Bill Watch

The Senate Education Committee will meet on Thursday at 11:30 am ET in room 149 of the Capitol Annex. They will discuss [SB 73](#). KEA currently has no position on this bill.

Click [here](#) for a list of Senate Education Committee Members

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
and <https://www.ket.org/legislature/> . These three
sites are very helpful in keeping track of what's going
on in Frankfort and are updated every 24 hours.

Please consider taking time during the 2018
Legislative Session to visit your legislators and talk
to them personally about how you feel about
pensions, public education and public service. If you
want to know more about how you can arrange to
visit legislators please contact your local president
or local KEA Staff.

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.

Dates to Remember:



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| Jan. 26 | Deadline for KEA Student Program
Marvin Dodson Scholarship
Deadline for #DIFFERENCEMAKERS
Student Art Contest entries |
| Feb. 16 | Deadline for KEA Teacher and ESP of
the Year Nominations |

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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