

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**DRAFT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**  
**2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly**

The 2014 Regular Session of the General Assembly will craft the 2014-2016 biennial budget for the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) primary focus in the upcoming session is to restore funding for several critical programs. While KDE's budget request will include additional budget requests for such programs, revenue continues to remain stagnant and the likelihood of any new funding is slight, without any additional revenue-generating measures during the session.

**BUDGET PRIORITIES**

**SEEK Base Funding**

The primary funding source for elementary and secondary education is the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) Program. The formula sets a base per pupil guarantee. The current budget provides a current SEEK base per pupil guarantee at \$3,827. To restore base funding to the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY 09) level of \$3,866, the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) budget request will include an increase. This increase in base funding will provide districts with additional base general funds and allow each district to allocate such funds to the areas of greatest need at the local level.

***FY15 — \$60,000,000***

***FY16 — \$90,000,000***

**Technology**

An increase in current bandwidth capacity to enhance the learning experience of all students by connecting them to rich instructional tools and content available on-line and across the KEN network and provide teachers and administrators access to information and tools to be effective teachers, leaders, and decision makers.

***Kentucky Education Network (KEN)***

KEN lays a foundation to create opportunities and to retain graduates in Kentucky. Key features of KEN include equity in terms of cost, geographic availability, access, and support of all learning styles, immediate availability, support of audio and video-intense learning and research opportunities, scalable and adaptable network design that easily supports future growth and 24/7 network availability and support. KEN serves all school districts as well as KDE.

***FY15 — \$5,800,000***

***FY16 — \$5,800,000***

***Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)***

KETS monies are used to support state technology shared services to all school districts and allow for specific technology offers of assistance directly to the school districts based on average daily attendance. The KETS program has been a widely successful program and funding has been historically stable, until recent years. This additional funding would restore prior cuts and keep Kentucky education technology competitive on the national forefront.

***FY15 — \$3,100,000***

***FY16 — \$3,100,000***

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***Instructional Device Replacement***

A 50 million dollar bond issuance to provide funding is used to provide content delivery devices (desktops, laptops and mobile devices) to students for instruction in the 21st century model of digital learning. For estimation purposes, a five-year bond for \$50 million dollars at 5.5% interest would result in annual debt service payments of \$11.4 million a year.

***FY15 — \$11.4 million a year***

***FY16 — \$11.4 million a year***

***Flexible Focus Grants***

Restore Professional Development, Safe Schools, Extended School Services, Textbooks and Preschool to FY08 Levels. This request will provide each school district with both the funding and the flexibility to target such funding toward the greatest areas of need at the local level. For example, the increase in professional development funding could be targeted toward critical support for the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System for teachers and leaders across the Commonwealth.

<b><i>Professional Development</i></b>	<b><i>additional</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,700,000</i></b>
<b><i>Safe Schools</i></b>	<b><i>additional</i></b>	<b><i>\$6,200,000</i></b>
<b><i>Extended School Services</i></b>	<b><i>additional</i></b>	<b><i>\$19,600,000</i></b>
<b><i>Textbooks</i></b>	<b><i>additional</i></b>	<b><i>\$21,700,000</i></b>
<b><i>Preschool</i></b>	<b><i>additional</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,800,000</i></b>
<b><i>FY15 — \$61,000,000</i></b>		
<b><i>FY16 — \$61,000,000</i></b>		

***College and Career Readiness***

***Additional faculty and new equipment for Area Technology Centers***

There are over 30 empty classrooms/labs across the state in area technology centers because of a lack of funding to hire enough Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers. This request will allow for CTE to hire approximately 35 teachers in programs aligned to Kentucky's high-demand, industry sectors, including Automobile/Aircraft Manufacturing, Business Services, Energy, Health Care and Transportation/Distribution/Logistics. It would also provide urgently needed equipment for CTE classrooms, such as welders, robotic equipment, milling machines, band saws, drill presses, plasma cam cutters, and mill lathes to upgrade CTE classrooms across the state.

***FY15 — \$3,100,000***

***FY16 — \$3,100,000***

***Kentucky Occupational Skill Standards Assessments (KOSSA)***

Under the new accountability model, school districts must move 50 percent of high school graduates who are not college- and/or career-ready to be college- and/or career-ready by 2015. The KOSSA are used to measure technical skill attainment (career readiness) upon completion of a technical program and will assist in this effort.

***FY15 — \$240,000***

***FY16 — \$264,000***

***Local Area Vocational Education Centers***

Several districts have added new local area vocational centers and programs and are requesting state funding to help support these initiatives under 702 KAR 2:140. These

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initiatives will help to provide students with more career preparation programs and improve career readiness.

***FY15 — \$3,300,000***

***FY16 — \$3,300,000***

**ACT/WorkKeys**

These assessments measure a student's ability to achieve a Silver, Gold, or Platinum National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Students holding the NCRC will also assist Kentucky counties that are pursuing the status of Work Ready Communities, which is an initiative to bring businesses to the Commonwealth.

***FY15 — \$1,115,500***

***FY16 — \$1,115,500***

**District Turnaround Support**

Education Recovery Staff will assist schools and districts in need of school improvement and turnaround, especially in persistently low-achieving schools.

***FY15 — \$3,400,000***

***FY16 — \$4,770,000***

**FINANCE OFFICER LEGISLATION**

School finance officers are the financial leaders in school districts and are responsible along with the superintendent, school councils and local board members, for maintaining a sound financial standing for districts. KDE is working with the Kentucky Association of School Business Officials (KASBO) on proposing statutory changes in the upcoming session to allow for minimum qualification/certification requirements for finance officers.

**DIGITAL LEARNING LEGISLATION**

Increased funding is key to providing infrastructure, equipment and computing devices to students. Also, developing and implementing policy to enhance and expand virtual and blended learning opportunities to students across the Commonwealth is critically important. The department has a Digital Learning Team creating the **Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines** to provide guidance for schools, districts, and digital providers when selecting or creating developmentally appropriate digital and blended learning resources for instruction, as well as virtual courses in Kentucky schools.