

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly

The 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly will begin in January for the “short” session, which meets for only 30 days during odd-numbered years. Members will convene on Tuesday, January 6 for four-days to elect leadership, adopt rules, and confirm committee chairs and members. The General Assembly will take a break until February 3 and then will begin to consider legislation in earnest. Revenue measures are generally not considered, as it takes a 3/5 majority vote to approve additional appropriations during the short session. The Kentucky Board of Education’s (KBE) primary focus in the upcoming session will be on dual credit issues for high school students as described below.

Dual Credit

The Dual Credit Task Force is currently working to finalize recommendations to deliver to the Interim Joint Committee on Education by December. Commissioner Terry Holliday along with Dr. Bob King, President of the Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Dr. Carl Rollins, Executive Director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) are leading the group’s work, which is focused on issues of equitable access to programs across the state, the quality of course offerings, reducing tuition costs and transferability of credits earned.

PENDING ISSUES

There are a number of issues that are likely to receive legislative attention during the upcoming session, many of which will require input and review by the department. Some of these are listed below.

Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) – Refinancing Plan

KTRS is proposing a refinancing plan (through a bond issuance) to address the unfunded liability in the pension plan. This would require a 3/5 vote and there is some discussion of a potential special session to address the issue.

Assessment and Accountability

Unbridled Learning completed the third full year of implementation in June 2014. The Office of Assessment and Accountability is meeting with stakeholders to discuss potential changes to the assessments and the accountability model.

Council for Better Education (CBE) – Adequacy Study

CBE will be releasing a study in December looking at the adequacy of funding in Kentucky for elementary and secondary education. The report is expected to make recommendations regarding Kentucky’s funding formula for elementary and secondary education, and will propose a funding amount to support adequacy.

Academic Standards

Legislation has been pre-filed to do away with the current standards in English/language arts, mathematics and science. The legislation would require any current standards utilized in Kentucky connected with the State Standards Initiative (Common Core) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to be purged and replaced.

Global Competencies

The Office of Next Generation Learners is currently studying the World Language Program Review and gathering data from schools. This data will be used to help inform and create improvement plans and other potential changes.

Charters

Continued legislative activity regarding establishing charters in Kentucky is likely.