

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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. KDE's budget request includes return funding for programs to 2008 and 2009 appropriation levels.

The Kentucky Board of Education supports the Governor and the General Assembly in determining revenue options that provide and sustain sufficient resources for the educational goals of the Commonwealth. This includes giving serious consideration to the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Tax Reform and letting voters decide the expanded gaming issue. Kentucky is making great strides in implementing Unbridled Learning and adequate funding is essential to continue moving every child to graduate college- and career-ready.

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.

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.

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

Technology

An increase in current bandwidth capacity is necessary 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

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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 x 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

Instructional Device Replacement

A \$50 million 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

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 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 with this effort.

FY15 — \$240,000

FY16 — \$264,000

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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 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

Capital Projects FB 2014-2016

Kerr Hall Addition – KSD

The addition to Kerr Hall would fulfill the required space needed for the elementary education, dormitory, and cafeteria space, reducing the risk of transporting elementary students three times a day across a very busy pedestrian crosswalk.

\$6,720,000

HVAC System Upgrades – Kentucky School for the Deaf – KSD

HVAC upgrade locations would include: Thomas Gym (priority), Middleton, Brady, and Barbee Hall. The average age of the existing equipment is well over 33 years old. HVAC upgrades would include disconnecting these buildings from the current boiler system.

\$3,500,000

Howser Hall – Kentucky School for the Blind – KSB

Howser Hall Dormitory needs complete renovation and upgrade. This includes a new HVAC system, plumbing system, and finishes to allow occupancy in the 40,000 square foot dormitory.

\$750,000

Richie Building Masonry Repairs – KSB

The project includes waterproofing, tuck pointing, brick replacement, and caulking. Due to the water intrusion and moisture build-up, the Richie Building continues to be highly susceptible to mold and poor air quality levels, which could result in health issues among students, faculty and staff. These issues may also impact the learning and teaching environment.

\$384,000

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Miscellaneous Maintenance Pool – KDE

The miscellaneous maintenance pool provides the department with a source of funds for capital construction projects with a total scope of less than \$600,000 each, primarily for the Kentucky School for the Deaf, Kentucky School for the Blind and the FFA Leadership Training Center.

\$3,000,000

Instructional Device Replacement – KDE

This initiative is essential to replace instructional devices that are either at or approaching the end of their supportability life cycle. Strategically, this project will achieve objectives identified in the KETS Master Plan and KDE Strategic Plan, as it will address issues such as technological equity, standards-based planning and accountability. This item is already included in the operating budget request for the estimated debt service payment of \$11.4 million a year, but also has to be included in the capital budget since it requires a bond issuance.

\$50,000,000

Next Generation SEEK

The current system was developed in 2006. The objective of the system was to provide a consistent process for calculating and distributing the \$3 billion annual Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) allocation. The system was developed to accept inputs from a variety of sources and generate the required reports for districts, KDE Budget Management, Governor's Office for Policy Management and LRC Budget Review Office staff.

\$1,760,000

KDE CAPITAL PLAN TOTALS: \$62,364,000

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. 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.