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 appoint committee members. The General Assembly takes a break until February 3 and then begins 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 expanding dual credit opportunities for high school students, as described below, as well as supporting efforts to fully fund the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System.

Dual Credit
The Dual Credit Task Force finalized recommendations and submitted them to the Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE). Dr. Terry Holliday, along with Dr. Robert King, President of the Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE), and Dr. Carl Rollins, Executive Director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), worked with Dr. Jay Box of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and stakeholders from elementary and secondary education, along with postsecondary institutions, to reach consensus on the recommendations. The group will present a set of guiding principles, policy recommendations, and funding options for consideration by the General Assembly at the IJCE's December meeting.

Among the policy and financing recommendations that could be addressed in legislation are:

- Participating postsecondary institutions shall work together with schools and districts to provide at least three courses in general education and three career and technical education courses in an appropriate career pathway to eligible students.
- Participating postsecondary institutions will work to create capacity for more secondary teachers to be credentialed to teach dual credit courses, which will help assure access and affordability for dual credit programming.
- Postsecondary institutions must provide an orientation program for all new secondary and postsecondary faculty members teaching dual credit coursework. The program should be available to school administrators, teachers, faculty, and secondary and postsecondary coordinators of dual credit.
- The costs of delivering dual credit courses should be shared by a combination of state, postsecondary institutions, secondary districts, state-funded scholarships, and students and families so that no one entity is solely responsible for financing.
- Tuition and other fees for dual credit courses will be outlined in writing and provided to each student, parent and/or guardian, and secondary school by the postsecondary institution prior to a student enrolling in such courses.
- Career and technical education courses (CTE) shall be transferrable to any participating community and technical college and meet requirements for a certificate, diploma, or associate degree within the related program of study. To ensure the transferability of CTE credit, a standardized course number system for CTE courses shall be established and maintained.
- Upon course completion, dual enrollment courses must appear on both the secondary and postsecondary transcripts for all dual credit courses. The use of dual credit rather than articulated credit agreements is strongly encouraged by CPE and KDE in order that students create a strong connection to colleges and universities and understand their ability to complete credential and degree programs.

Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS)
The KBE supports full funding for KTRS's Pension Fund. KTRS is looking at ways to address the unfunded liability in the pension system and is currently discussing with the Governor and the General Assembly a possible refinancing involving a bond issuance to address the issue.