



December 24, 2014

Mr. Julian Tackett
KY High School Athletic Assn.
2280 Executive Dr.
Lexington, KY 40505-4808

Dear Julian:

On behalf of the more than 3000 members of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, we are pleased to provide you with a copy of the KASA Legislative Program for the 2015 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. We value your role as a key participant in shaping the educational policy of our Commonwealth, and we solicit your support for our legislative advocacy efforts.

We welcome any questions or response you may have regarding our 2015 Legislative Program. We welcome your suggestions and ideas, and we would value joining with you as a partner in any endeavor in which we share common ideas about improving P-12 education in Kentucky.

Feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you or if you need further information about any item in our legislative program.

We hope you and your family enjoy a restful and joyous holiday season, and we look forward to working with you during the 2015 legislative session.

Kindest regards,

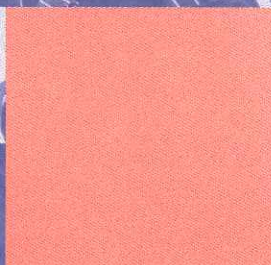
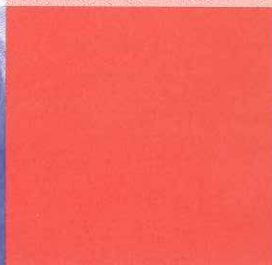
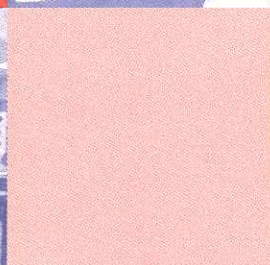
Lu Young
Lu Young
President


V. Wayne Young
Executive Director

Enclosure



Kentucky Association of School Administrators



2015 Legislative Program

Mission

As the unified professional organization representing all education leaders, we draw upon the strength of our diversity to best serve the needs of children and our members by the continuous improvement of education through

- Professional development of strong leaders
- Advocacy for the welfare of children
- Effective participation in shaping education policy



KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

AND THE CENTER FOR EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Preamble

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators remains committed to the vision of providing quality elementary and secondary education opportunities for the children of our state. Only with the ongoing leadership and resolve of the legislature can Kentucky live up to its commitment to educational excellence.

KASA urges the General Assembly to honor our state's constitutional mandate, and restore P-12 education as its highest funding and policymaking priority. If our documented educational improvement is to continue, Kentucky must keep pace with the efforts of the nation and the world in assuring that our students and citizens have access to the highest quality educational opportunities available.

KASA commits to a partnership with the General Assembly, and with all those who would continue to make the education of Kentucky's citizens their highest priority, in order to assure them a place in the world economy and the marketplace of ideas. To that end, we propose the following as our Legislative Program for the 2015 session of the Kentucky General Assembly:

Funding Issues

It is the constitutional duty of the General Assembly to provide an adequate and equitable system of funding for the public schools. This duty supersedes all other legislative functions. KASA believes that the following priorities must be addressed in order for the legislature to fulfill its obligations toward P-12 education in Kentucky:

Top Priority

- **Commit all growth in state revenues to increasing SEEK and all other flexible focus funds (professional development, safe schools, textbooks, transportation, FR/YSC's, etc.) to levels that provide constitutionally adequate funding to support academic improvement for all Kentucky students.**

Other Priorities

- Oppose all unfunded mandates and cost-shifting to local districts.
- Provide state funding that is adequate to support full-day kindergarten in every school district.
- Fund SEEK based on average daily membership (ADM), with no decrease in the per pupil amount.



Revenue Issues

In addition to the funding issues detailed above that are the responsibility of the General Assembly, state and local taxing authority must be designed to generate adequate revenue. KASA supports the following:

Top Priority

- **Adopt comprehensive tax reform measures that provide for ongoing growth of state tax revenues based on the growth of the state's economy.**

Other Priorities

- Enhance state-level enforcement to assure accurate and timely assessment of real property by property valuation administrators (PVAs).
- Require local school districts to increase their level of support for the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky (FSPK) to ten cents, not subject to recall, and equalize that amount with state funds.
- Create incentives for local school boards to adopt the allowable annual 4% growth in property tax revenue.



Student, Curriculum, and Accountability Issues

Accountability is at the heart of Kentucky's education system. In order for schools and school districts to provide the most productive, and highest quality educational experience, and successfully meet the needs of all students, KASA proposes the General Assembly do the following:

Top Priority

- **Provide adequate bandwidth and technology infrastructure to allow every school district to make maximum use of virtual and distance learning and technology-based instructional materials.**

Other Priorities

- Provide incentives for secondary schools to pilot performance/competency based credit programs.
- Continue with the implementation of the Kentucky Academic Standards.
- Give schools a greater role in designing the programs and services that are provided to the state agency children (KECSAC) they serve.
- Provide the services of certified school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and other fully qualified providers of student support services to address mental health and other student needs at a level that assures that all students have adequate access to these services.
- Increase the level of the awards to students for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to keep pace with tuition increases at public postsecondary institutions, and allow students to access KEES funds to pay for dual credit courses.
- Establish, expand, and fund a broader array of programmatic options (alternative programs, earlier access to technical programs, planned 5-year programs, etc.) for high school students to assure that the needs of all learners are met.
- Adjust the performance index for schools to make allowances for transient students and students with limited-English proficiency.
- Simplify the process for assessing student readiness for kindergarten.
- Use student performance on statewide assessments and end-of-course assessments as part of the criteria for calculating the award of KEES scholarship funds.
- Oppose legislation mandating participation by home school students in public school extracurricular activities.
- Update and enhance the structure and oversight of the KOSSA certification process for students.

Professional and Personnel Issues

To continue tangible progress toward proficiency, Kentucky's schools must attract and retain the highest quality teachers and school leaders possible. KASA supports the following actions for the recruitment and retention of effective school district staff:

Top Priority

- **Take immediate steps to permanently assure the actuarial soundness of the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS).**

Other Priorities

- Alter the tribunal process for certified employees to achieve more consistent results and promote effective teaching.
- Revise the professional growth and effectiveness system (PGES) for certified employees to provide for more flexibility in implementation, and more realistic and functional assessment instruments that address diverse employment settings beyond routine classroom teaching duties.
- Provide greater flexibility to local districts and experienced teachers, through certification waivers and endorsements, to allow teachers to be assigned to critical shortage areas and other hard-to-fill positions.
- Streamline the certification process for teachers coming to Kentucky from out-of-state.

- Allow classified school employees with specialized medical training to accompany students on out-of-state trips in lieu of nurses.
- Give school districts more flexibility in the employment of KTRS retirees.
- Amend tenure statutes to clarify that substitute teaching and teaching under emergency certification do not qualify as credit toward tenure.
- Expand model programs aimed at shifting routine duties away from principals (SAM program, e.g.) to allow them to focus on instructional duties.
- Redesign the TELL survey and administer it through local school district offices in order to achieve more valid and meaningful results.
- Expand the activities which qualify for EILA credit so that school administrators can obtain credit without leaving their building or district.
- Lengthen the standard work-year for teachers beyond 185/187 days, with adequate state funding to support salaries, to allow sufficient opportunity for professional development and other related duties.
- Amend the structure and design of the program review process, with particular emphasis on the redesign of world language program reviews.

Governance and Management Issues

Safe, effective and efficient governance and management of the operations and resources of local school districts contributes directly to the success of students. KASA proposes the following measures aimed at improving these functions:

Top Priority

- **Provide greater opportunities for local school boards to request waivers from state statutes and regulations in order to become "districts of innovation."**

Other Priorities

- Oppose the adoption of charter school legislation.
- Revise and simplify the consultation process for principals and school councils.

- Provide more technical assistance to schools and districts to assist them in working with first responders and complying with new school safety requirements.
- Exempt all school construction from prevailing wage laws.
- Subject home schools to reasonable reporting and accountability requirements.
- Continue to allow local school boards the discretion to determine whether to enter into collective bargaining agreements with their employees.
- Encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise recently adopted restrictive and counterproductive foodservice regulations.

Kentucky Association of School Administrators
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