

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Possible Items for Inclusion for the Legislative Agenda
2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly

The 2016 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 ensure funding for several critical programs, including career and technical education and capital improvements for the campuses of the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind and the FFA Leadership Training Center.

The Consensus Forecasting Group (CFG) is scheduled to begin meetings in August to review economic indicators and forecasts in order to prepare revenue estimates for the budgeting process.

Budget Priorities – Pending

The KBE will consider budget items and prioritize them at the August meeting. However, potential items include:

Career and Technical Education

A request for four planning grants to support regional career and technology centers is suggested. Also, a potential bond request for equipment purchases and upgrades for many of the local and state technology centers is needed.

District Turnaround Support

An emphasis on funding to provide assistance to schools and districts in need of school improvement and turnaround, especially in persistently low-achieving schools could be included.

Dual Credit

Work continues to expand dual credit opportunities for students. The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) has adopted a new policy addressing dual credit and the task force continues to meet to discuss financing options.

Capital Projects

KDE has submitted its agency capital plan to the Capital Planning Advisory Board for 2016-2022. KDE leases state-owned space administered by the Capital Plaza Authority and KDE administers the three state-owned campuses of KSD, KSB and the FFA Center.

Capital improvements for the campuses of the Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind will be priorities in this budget request.

Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS)

Still pending before the Kentucky General Assembly is the unfunded liability of the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System. The Governor has created a work group to review options and provide recommendations by December.