

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DRAFT BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2016 REGULAR SESSION

The vision of the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Department of Education is to ensure that all students reach proficiency and graduate from high school ready for college and career. The board's vision is informed by a changing economy that requires P-12 schools to prepare students for a more complex and competitive workplace.

The Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) made many fundamental changes in our collective thinking about what public education should provide as well as how it should be implemented – from establishing a funding mechanism that provides equity across the state to requiring rigorous standards to ensuring local control and the input of parents through the School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) process. All of these components were key to successfully charting a new course in education for our children. Importantly, KERA created an independent governance structure for public education with the Kentucky Board of Education responsible for hiring a commissioner, who in turn would oversee the daily operations of a state department of education dedicated to serving the districts that educate our children.

The **Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)** develops and adopts the regulations that govern Kentucky's public school districts and the actions of the Kentucky Department of Education. This includes management of the Kentucky School for the Blind, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, interscholastic athletics, and community education programs and services. The board reviews the department's budget requests and makes recommendations to the governor and legislature.

The **Commissioner of Education** oversees the daily operations of the Kentucky Department of Education and recommends and implements Kentucky Board of Education policies.

The **Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)** provides support to locally-operated public school districts focused on educating children in elementary, middle and high schools throughout the Commonwealth.

Together, the KBE, the Commissioner and KDE are responsible for setting local school district standards for student, program, and operational performance while respecting the local autonomy of each school district.

Budget and policy priorities are tied to the strategic goals developed by the board and the department.

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Kentucky Department of Education Goals

Career Readiness Pathways: KDE collaborates with businesses throughout the state to determine workforce demands and the required skills to meet industry needs. Industry certificates for career pathways are reviewed and updated annually so that career and technical education programs are aligned with industry needs and schools can offer specific pathways in which students can earn relevant industry certifications.

Professional Learning & Support: As teachers set student growth goals, KDE provides support and guidance to teachers for using formative assessments, data, and resources to adjust classroom instruction to meet the learning goals of each student.

Integrated Methods for Learning: Teachers are empowered to provide individual instruction in the classroom that best meets the needs of each student through an integrated approach that allows learners to explore, gather, process, and refine information across content areas. KDE aligns academic standards that describe what students should learn with assessments that measure what students learned, supporting the curriculum decisions and teaching practices developed and implemented at the local level.

Learning Systems: KDE recognizes the need to support students who excel as well as students who need academic or behavioral interventions. Rigorous and creative systems are utilized across the state to support the wide-ranging needs of students.

Human Resources Management: The U.S. Department of Education approved KDE's Equity Plan in June 2015. This plan includes strategies for local school districts to utilize to ensure that poor, minority, Limited English Proficient, and special needs students are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers.

Persistence to Graduation: KDE created the "Persistence to Graduation Tool" which is an early warning indicator system that identifies students who may be off-track for promotion or not on-time for graduation. Teachers review student-level data for those identified students that may be in need of additional intervention and supports.

Early Learning: KDE partners with early childhood and Head Start to provide early childhood educators with professional learning and resources to encourage early learning.

Continuous Improvement: Schools and districts annually establish continuous improvement plans. Improvement efforts focus on student needs through a collaborative process involving stakeholders to establish and address priority needs, district funding, and closing achievement gaps between identified subgroups. KDE reviews these plans and offers assistance to districts to build upon their capacity for high-quality planning by making connections between academic resources and available funding to address targeted needs.

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2016-2018 Biennial Budget Initiatives

The 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly will craft the 2016-2018 biennial budget for the Commonwealth. KDE's 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, the Kentucky School for the Blind and the FFA Leadership Training Center.

<u>Policy Initiative</u>	<u>FY17*</u>	<u>FY18*</u>	<u>Total*</u>
Career and Technical Education	\$7,900,000	\$7,900,000	\$15,800,000
Preschool	\$73,300,000	\$73,300,000	\$146,600,000
Assessment	\$6,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$15,000,000
SEEK Transportation	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$160,000,000
Education Recovery	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$12,000,000
Total Requests	\$173,200,000	\$176,200,000	\$349,400,000

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Career and Technical Education

\$7,900,000 each year of the biennium

- Industry Certifications – Provide a tiered reimbursement program for the successful earning of valid industry certifications. \$1,000,000 in FY18
- Regional Technical Center Grants – Offer four planning grants of \$250,000 each for the establishment of regional technical centers. The districts that feed into the state-operated area technology centers would develop a committee to plan for a regional center. \$1,000,000 in FY17
- Local Area Vocational Education Centers – Support districts that have added new local area vocational centers and programs and are requesting state funding to help sustain these initiatives under 705 KAR 2:140. These initiatives will help to provide students with more career preparation programs and improve career readiness. \$3,150,000 in FY17 and \$3,150,000 in FY18
- Project-Based Learning and Professional Development – Develop opportunities for students for pre-apprenticeships, internships and work-based learning for skills required by business and industry. New and on-going professional development, technical skills updates, project-based learning, training resources and technical assistance for implementation of CTE programs are needed for instructors. \$1,500,000 in FY17 and \$1,500,000 in FY18
- Equipment Upgrade – Upgrade equipment in schools and technical centers. This equipment provides programming which aligns with regional and/or state economic sectors. \$30,000,000 Bond; Estimated Debt Service \$2,250,000 in FY17 and \$2,250,000 in FY18

Preschool

\$73,300,000 each year of the biennium

The additional funds are needed to increase the number of four-year-olds served from 160% to 200% of poverty. The projected number of additional 4-year-olds served at 200% would be 15,653.

Assessment

\$6,000,000 in FY17 and \$9,000,000 in FY18

- Science – Additional funds will allow the design and development of new science assessments that meet the Kentucky Academic Standards. \$2,000,000 in FY17 and \$2,000,000 in FY18
- Social Studies – Additional funds will allow the design and development of new social studies assessments that meet the Kentucky Academic Standards. \$1,000,000 in FY17 and \$2,000,000 in FY18
- K-PREP (English /Language Arts, Math Item Refresh) – Additional funds will allow an enhanced item pool for English/Language Arts and Math, including performance-based and technology enhanced formats. \$1,500,000 in FY17 and \$1,500,000 in FY18
- K-PREP On-Line – Additional funds will allow K-PREP to be administered in an online environment to meet the expectations of schools, districts, and the Kentucky General Assembly. \$1,500,000 in FY17 and \$3,500,000 in FY18

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Transportation

\$80,000,000 each year of the biennium

Local district pupil transportation costs continue to increase annually, largely due to higher personnel and operating costs. The state provides an average reimbursement of approximately 59% of these costs to districts, placing a high burden on districts to pay for the balance out of local funds in order to continue providing safe transportation for students. The proposed increase in state funding would allow for full reimbursement of eligible local district pupil transportation costs by the state.

Education Recovery/Priority School Funding

\$6,000,000 each year of the biennium

Education Recovery Staff assist schools and districts in need of school improvement and turnaround, especially in persistently low-achieving schools.

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Capital Initiatives

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 Training 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.

<u>Capital Initiative</u>	<u>Total*</u>
Miscellaneous Maintenance Pool – This fund is split between KSB, KSD, and the FFA Training Facility. Our current funding has been set at \$675,000 annually for several years.	\$3,000,000
KSB Howser Hall – Renovate Howser Hall to provide additional dorm space, fully functioning infirmary, and 21 st century classroom space for blind and low-vision students.	\$5,000,000
KSD New Elementary Building – New dorm and classroom space in the central campus area for the school’s youngest students.	\$6,000,000
KSB McDaniel Scoggin Hall – Renovate the building including doors, windows, and HVAC.	\$1,000,000
<i>SEEK Technology Application – Conduct a rewrite of the existing system to allow for communication with peer systems. *</i>	<i>\$1,700,000*</i>
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Total Requests	\$16,700,000

*The request for an upgrade to the SEEK technology application is not a request for actual funding, but simply a request for authorization to spend existing funds on this item as a capital project. If authorization is granted, KDE would anticipate using agency funds over time to upgrade the software utilized to calculate SEEK distributions to districts.

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Miscellaneous Maintenance Pool

\$3,000,000

The miscellaneous maintenance pool provides KDE 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. Maintenance projects such as roof and HVAC system repairs and modifications to structures to meet health and safety standards are the principal components of the program. *The current budget includes authorization for a \$1,350,000 bond-funded maintenance pool for KDE.*

KSB Howser Hall Renovation

\$5,000,000

KSB has to limit residential students to only those outside of Jefferson County for residential opportunities. This renovation will allow KSB to serve all students across Kentucky, have a fully functioning health care center/infirmary, and adjust the floor plan to redesign instructional classrooms centered on blind and low-vision student needs. *Howser Hall was built in 1982 and contains about 43,000 square feet. The building in its current condition is not able to be occupied due to a completely failed plumbing system.*

KSD New Elementary Building

\$6,000,000

This project will replace Walker Hall with a new facility, as the current facility is not habitable. The overall condition of Walker Hall has deteriorated since 2004 when it was placed on the surplus list. Walker Hall currently houses the elementary program at KSD and can accommodate 128 students. A new site closer to the center of campus is needed for the safety of elementary age students. *This has not been listed in a previous KDE capital plan.*

KSB McDaniel/Scoggin Educational Building

\$1,000,000

The project would replace doors and windows, renovate the remainder of the building, and replace HVAC. The McDaniel Classroom Building was originally constructed in 1985 and is a 23,740 square foot facility. There have been no additions and no major renovations. External roof gutters and downspouts were added in 2001. The building is primarily used for classroom instruction with 10 classrooms. *This has not been listed in a previous KDE capital plan.*

Next Generation SEEK

\$1,760,000*

The objective of the system is to provide a consistent process for calculating and distributing the annual \$3 billion 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 and Management, and LRC Budget Staff. *The current system was developed in 2006 by KDE staff.*

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Policy Initiatives

Bullying

The Kentucky Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force recommends the statewide adoption of a formal definition of bullying to help youth, parents, educators and administrators differentiate between bullying behavior and other types of unwanted behavior for the purposes of prevention, reporting, data collection, referral and intervention. The proposed definition is: “Bullying is unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time and can happen anywhere.”

Career and Technical Education

In 2013, all of the regional centers were transferred to the Kentucky Department of Education from the Kentucky Cabinet for Education and Workforce Development. Since then, KDE has worked to streamline operations, hire certified instructors, upgrade equipment, and align personnel and retirement systems. A continuation of work on aligning programs and updates of statutes and regulations will continue. This includes the priorities listed in the budget as well as any additional recommendations from the CTE advisory group.

District Turnaround Support

An emphasis on funding is required for Education Recovery Staff to assist schools and districts in need of school improvement and turnaround, especially in persistently low-achieving schools. There also is ongoing work to provide additional supports for local districts to tackle identified Focus Schools early and before any further decline into Priority status.

Dual Credit

KDE, along with the Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE), the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), and other stakeholders from elementary and secondary education and postsecondary institutions, are continuing work to reach consensus on recommendations to move forward in the session.

Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System (KTRS)

An issue still pending before the Kentucky General Assembly includes the unfunded liability faced by the Kentucky Teachers’ Retirement System. 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.