

## **The Kentucky Board of Education Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2016-18 Biennium**

The vision of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) 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) 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 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 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.

### **Kentucky Board of Education 2016-18 Biennial Budget Priorities**

	<b>FY 17</b>	<b>FY 18</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Career and Tech Education</b>	<b>\$7,900,000</b>	<b>\$7,900,000</b>	<b>\$15,800,000</b>
<b>Preschool</b>	<b>\$73,399,000</b>	<b>\$73,399,000</b>	<b>\$146,600,000</b>
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>
<b>SEEK Transportation</b>	<b>\$80,000,000</b>	<b>\$80,000,000</b>	<b>\$160,000,000</b>
<b>Education Recovery</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$173,200,000</b>	<b>\$176,200,000</b>	<b>\$349,400,000</b>

PLUS: \$16,700,000 Capital Initiative for KSB, KSD, FFA Center and SEEK Technology Application

### **Career and Technical Education (CTE) – \$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 provide students with more career preparation programs and improve career readiness. \$3,150,000 each year of the biennium
- *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 each year of the biennium
- *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 each year of the biennium

### **Preschool – \$73,300,000 each year of the biennium**

- The additional funds are needed to increase the number of 4-year-olds served from 160 percent to 200 percent of poverty. The projected number of additional 4-year-olds served at 200 percent 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 each year of the biennium
- *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 each year of the biennium
- *K-PREP Online* – 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

**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 percent 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.

**Kentucky Board of Education Legislative Priorities**

- **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 Teacher's 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.