KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

2016-2018 Biennial Budget Update and Update on Pending Elementary and Secondary Legislation Before the Kentucky General Assembly

Rationale:

This item is designed to update the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) on the status of the 2016-2018 Biennial Budget and the legislation from the 2016 session.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS Chapter 48 and KRS 156.024

History/Background:

Existing Policy: It is the practice of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to inform and advise the KBE on the current status of the Kentucky Department of Education budget and other legislation as it progresses through the legislative process.

Summary: In accordance with the discussion/direction provided at the October 2015 KBE meeting, KDE staff prepared and submitted a biennial budget request to the Governor's Office in November 2015 for consideration. The KDE budget request asked for continued funding for all programs. It also asked for additional funding for Career and Technical Education, Preschool, Assessment, SEEK Transportation and Education Recovery Staff. The legislative agenda focuses on KBE budget priorities.

The Governor submitted an official 2016-2018 biennial budget request for the Executive Branch to the General Assembly on January 26, 2016. This was introduced as House Bill 303 (HB 303). HB 303 maintained SEEK funding at the enacted 2016 level, proposed a 4.5% reduction to FY16 appropriations (excluding Local District Health Insurance) in the amount of $17.9 million, and a reduction of 9% in FY17 and FY18, or $35.8 million. The House passed its version of the budget on March 16. It then went to the Senate for consideration. An update on the status of the budget will occur at the April meeting.

Additionally, a summary on the status of legislation will be provided at the April meeting. A separate handout will be available.

Budget Impact: Reductions of this proportion would directly impact the local school districts and the services the department is able to provide. At this time of the fiscal year, a reduction would result in a limited number of areas where funds have not yet been disbursed to support the 4.5%. Reductions in FY17 and FY18 would directly impact local school districts in the areas of services to children and personnel.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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