



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

***EACH AND EVERY STUDENT EMPOWERED AND EQUIPPED WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND DISPOSITIONS TO PURSUE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.***

The 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly will begin in January for the “short” session, which meets for only 30 days during odd-numbered years. Members will convene on Tuesday, January 3, for four-days to elect leadership, adopt rules, confirm committee chairs and appoint committee members. The General Assembly takes a break until February 7 and then begins to consider legislation.

The Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) primary focus in the upcoming session will be on aligning Kentucky’s accountability system with the new requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and advancing the best policies and practices as the General Assembly considers establishing charter schools.

Policy Initiatives

Kentucky’s Accountability System

With the passage of ESSA, the Commissioner established an Accountability Steering Committee. The committee’s work groups are designing various elements of the new accountability system. This will include recommendations to update existing statutes and regulations to better align with the requirements of ESSA.

Charter Schools

As the General Assembly continues to discuss the possibility of charter schools in Kentucky, KDE will provide recommended best practices, as guided by the KBE, for consideration.

Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) and Kentucky Retirement Systems (KRS)

An issue still pending before the Kentucky General Assembly includes the continued unfunded liability faced by the TRS and KRS (classified school district employees). The Governor and the General Assembly continue to determine revenue options that provide and sustain sufficient resources for the educational goals of the Commonwealth.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Since regional technology centers were brought under KDE in 2013, the department has worked to streamline operations, hire certified instructors, upgrade equipment, and align personnel and retirement systems. Continued work is needed in these areas as well as to align programs and expand career and technical education opportunities throughout the state.