**Northern Kentucky Education Cooperative Board Meeting**

**KASA Report**

**January 13, 2022**

**Legislative Updates:**

The KASA Advocacy Team is working diligently to stay on top of the events going on at the capital every day. Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, Bob Roland and Abby Piper are providing updates on the bills being filed, the movement of each, and particularly monitoring the budget bills. Here is a recap thus far:

* 322 bills filed during the first week of the session. Many directly impact education
* SB1 gives superintendents control over the process of hiring principals and approving curriculum
* House’s budget bill (introduced ahead of the Governor’s)
* Senate and House bills filed to provide services and financial assistance for school districts impacted by the December tornado
* **SB25 (COVID Relief Measures)** gives temporary provisions through June 30 to allow for 10 remote learning days and ease of restrictions to hire/rehire retired educators and support staff. These same provisions were given during the special session but expired December 31.
* Congressional redistricting HB44: Sponsor Rep. Bobby McCool (R — Van Lear) along with testimony from co-sponsor Rep. Lisa Willner (D—Louisville).
This bill would require school attendance policies to allow provisions for excused absences due to a student's mental or behavioral health status. During testimony, students reported that 13 other states already have similar laws on the books. The committee voted unanimously to support.
* HB126: Sponsor Chair Regina Huff (R — Williamsburg)
This bill would require completion of the FAFSA as a graduation requirement. Two exemptions apply. Parents could opt out by signing a form provided by the district and for superintendents would be able to provide a hardship waiver. John Hughes from the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce testified in support of the bill. The committee voted to approve, with two no votes from Rep. Attica Scott (D — Louisville), who did not explain her vote, and from Rep. Lisa Willner (D — Louisville), who said she was opposed to making the requirement a condition of graduation.
* KASA Drive-In Day held January 12 with KASA Board members and superintendents meeting with local legislators.

**KASA Legislative Communication Tools**

KASA will use several tools to stay to keep members apprised of legislative activities and bill movement throughout the session as listed:

1. **Online community for Breaking News.** You can access the community on the web at [connect.kasa.org](http://kasa.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMDM5MDE5MyZwPTEmdT0xMTAzNTA4NDIwJmxpPTkxOTg5NTEy/index.html) or through your KASA Mobile app. The team will use this real-time resource to share Breaking News such as the budget Friday and the Governor’s budget today. In addition, it will be used to share developments from Senate and House Education committees. Please know you can adjust your profile/settings to determine if you want to receive these notifications by email in real time, once a day or once a week. Visit [https://bit.ly/KASA-Member\_Portal](http://kasa.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xMDM5MDE5MyZwPTEmdT0xMTAzNTA4NDIwJmxpPTkxOTg5NTEz/index.html) to learn more about your settings or contact Lisa Ducker (lisa@kasa.org). Download KASA Mobile form your app store.
2. **Text messaging notifications**. Please sign up by texting KASALegislative to 52886.
3. **Podcasts** are new to KASA with the first being released later today. It’s a 20-minute listen with our first guest, Rep. Ed Massey, who speaks to education funding, staffing shortages, and more. This will be shared on social media and through KASA’s communication channels.
4. **Capitol Connection** will continue to be our weekly wrap-up of session activities from the week and will be delivered at the end of the week by email.
5. **Digital Alerts** will be sent electronically and by text message to share critical information that will need action from KASA members.
6. **Legislative Brief** will be delivered to legislators and KASA members two times each month. It is a digital publication that shares key stories from school district students and staff. Expect the first around January 20 with messages from our friends at Dawson Springs and Mayfield.

**KASA Upcoming Events**

Mark your calendar for the upcoming opportunities for member engagement:

* **January 1-February 28 ALI Ed Session Proposals Accepted**
* **January 18 Student Leadership Challenge**
* **January 27-28 KWEL Conference**
* **February 2 Personnel Essentials**
* **February 22 Principal Summit**
* **March 17-18 Ed Law and Finance Conference**
* **July 27-29 KASA Annual Leadership Institute**

Additional information found at: <https://bit.ly/KASASUPTGroup>

**Respectfully submitted**

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