



# Issues Update

November 28, 2016

*Issues Update* is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and presented on its website, [www.kacteonline.org](http://www.kacteonline.org). As needed, *Issues Update* will report on state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy and legislative developments. KACTE and Stone can be reached at [kmstone1951@gmail.com](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com) or 502-223-1823.

## CTE Advocacy Needed Following Kentucky Election Results

The big news for Kentucky politics, of course, was the Republican takeover of the Kentucky House of Representatives. The November 8 election results created a sea change in the House, swinging from a small Democratic majority to a potentially veto-proof Republican majority. The question is what does this mean for legislative action in the 2017 Kentucky General Assembly session that begins January 3.

There are several Republican-initiated or supported proposals that have not progressed through the Kentucky House in recent years. Now, with the existing Republican-dominated Senate and Republican Gov. Matt Bevin in office, those proposals may move through the legislative process. One that already has received comment is school choice, particularly permitting charter schools to operate in Kentucky.

Perhaps as a way to have an impact on the General Assembly session, the Kentucky State Board of Education called a special meeting on November 28 to consider the issue of charter schools in Kentucky. Nationally, charter school analysis shows mixed results. Some work very well. Some are not successful. Most are supported with public funds, which brings Department of Education oversight into the discussion.

### Considering Charter Schools

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, Ph.D., has said in open meetings he has worked with charter schools previously during his career in Georgia. He said there are charter school models he could support. It may be instructive to see what models are reviewed at the State Board of Education meeting. Following that, it definitely will be instructive to see what the Board adopts in its legislative advocacy agenda for the General Assembly session. The Board will consider the agenda at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 7.

More information on the General Assembly session may be available at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Legislative Preview program in Lexington on December 19. Representative Jeff Hoover, the long-time Republican leader in the House, will be the new Speaker when the session convenes on January 3. He faces a significant organizing job. Without being a majority party for 100 years, the new

Republican majority has no experience in chairing committees or setting the policy debate.

The committee chairs are powerful positions in Kentucky's legislative process. They determine what items will be heard in committee meetings and forwarded to the full House for consideration. Who those chairs are and their backgrounds will be early indicators of General Assembly action.

Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) members and others in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) community will be well served to provide early, detailed, fact-based, professional communication with their Kentucky representative and senator. In the past, there has been strong support for CTE among the legislators in general. It should not be taken for granted that it will continue. CTE will need continued support to sustain achievements in college and career readiness and to build new initiatives to support student success and the state's workforce, which is foundational for a thriving economy.

**REACH OUT AND TELL THE LEGISLATORS** what you know; point out CTE's and your students' achievements and what they mean to your students' and community's futures.

- Invite the legislators into your schools and to visit your programs. As in teaching much of CTE, hands-on -- or in this case eyes-on -- education adds relevancy.
- If you know a legislator personally, make sure he or she knows what you do and how important it is for your students, your school, and your community.

Hoover's early comments after the election results suggest a more open legislative process in which legislation that benefits the whole of Kentucky will be valued over partisan actions. Such pronouncements often are made following change elections, but Hoover has backed up his words with one tangible action. He named an eight-member "transition" team to advise how to set up the organizational **continued on back**

# Perkins Act, Kentucky Sector Strategy Impact CTE

structure and possibly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the House. Hoover named four Democrats and four Republicans to the team.

KACTE and the State Advisers for Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs) are cooperating to display positive information on CTE and CTSEs in the tunnel connecting the State Capitol to the legislators' offices in the Capitol Annex the week of January 3-6. Accomplishment data and CTSE award attainment will be prominent parts of the display. **Any suggestion to enhance the display may be sent to KACTE Executive Director Michael R. Stone at [kmstone1951@gmail.com](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com).**

## Perkins Funding, Reauthorization

While waiting on the Kentucky General Assembly, the post-election rush in Washington includes two issues of importance to CTE.

- In deference to President-Elect Donald Trump, Congress has announced it will not pass a Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government for the remainder of the 2017 Fiscal Year. Instead, it will pass another stopgap funding bill through mid-February to allow the new administration to suggest changes prior to final FY2017 action on appropriations. The impact on CTE is a small reduction in funding due to an across the board cut to all programs because of deficit-reduction requirements previously placed on the budget process. However, the cut will not affect Kentucky, which is one of a number of small states that will not be subject to the reduction. Also, it is expected the cut will be restored in the final FY2017 funding bill. Both houses of Congress have planned level funding for programs under the *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act*. Further, because *Perkins Act* monies are forward-funded, the appropriations being debated will not be available until the 2017-18 school year.
- The U.S. Senate has not taken up passage of *Perkins Act* reauthorization. The much-praised *Perkins Act* reauthorization passed by the U.S. House of Representatives has not been addressed in the Senate. CTE observers in Washington think there is some chance the legislation could advance during the on-going lame-duck session. The same observers advise that senators need to hear from their constituents about the importance of updating the *Perkins Act*.

KACTE is communicating with the education-policy staff of Kentucky's congressional delegation on these two issues -- to support adequate funding for CTE program under the *Perkins Act* and to pass reauthorization of the *Perkins Act*. KACTE members and others in the CTE community are urged to express similar support. The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has an easy-to-use online messaging process available at <http://www.congressweb.com/acte#.WDxoOyhQkUU>.

## CTE Alignment with Sector Strategy

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is recommending business-driven account management for education, including placement of at least one account manager in each local school or district. The Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board (KWIB) Business and Education Alignment Committee is making a compatible recommendation, suggesting the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) create and identify funding for Business Partnership Liaisons in each local school district. The purpose is to connect schools and students with employers.

The Committee surveyed more than 600 business respondents and reviewed economic and educational data to develop five recommendations to serve five sectors: Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Business/Information Technology, Transportation/Logistics, and Construction. Construction replaces Energy on the list of five top industry sectors. In addition to the Business Partnership Liaison, it recommends:

- OCTE complete a review of all current certifications and career pathways for alignment with the KWIB Sector Strategy;
- School systems improve career pathways to increase workforce supply to meet employer demand;
- The General Assembly provide tax incentives, credits or rebates to incentivize employers working with schools; and
- All parties begin a formal marketing effort for parents, students and employers.

Further recommendations on industry certifications/credentials will continue and be brought before the May 19, 2017, KWIB meeting.

Meanwhile, OCTE has fulfilled part one of a New Skills for Youth Initiative. With a \$100,000 grant from J.P. Morgan Chase administered by the Council on Chief State School Officers, OCTE is working on an initiative that parallels the KWIB Committee. OCTE has applied for a \$2 million grant from the same organizations to implement regional CTE academies providing skills education to meet the demands of the Sector Strategy. Kentucky will have almost 300,000 job openings to fill in the next five years, with about half in the five identified sectors. The OCTE grant vision is regionalized governance and delivery of CTE that:

- is employer led through regional workforce areas and ensures cross-institutional involvement;
- encompasses career pathways that have seamless transitions from secondary to postsecondary education;
- involves shared resources and funding among all partners; and
- provides valuable industry certifications and credentials that are recognized by business and industry.

OCTE is awaiting notification whether its grant application is approved.