



Issues Update

January 31, 2017

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. 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 or 502-223-1823.

Education Issues on Tap for General Assembly

Action on **Senate Bill 1** to address a wide range of educational policy likely will move quickly according to its principal sponsor, Sen. Mike Wilson, Chair, Senate Education Committee, when the Kentucky General Assembly reconvenes on Feb. 7, 2017, for the remainder of the 2017 session. **SB1** already has been read twice on the Senate floor and needs only to pass the Senate Education Committee, which will meet on Feb. 9, before being considered for final passage. It then would go to the House Education Committee where the new Republican majority is expected to favor its passage.

At a meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education on Jan. 30, Wilson said **SB1** purges the requirements Kentucky was forced to adopt through waivers of the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* known as *No Child Left Behind*. Wilson said **SB1** mirrors the federal changes to the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* now known as the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. He said the legislation reestablishes state and local control over education. The proposed bill may be viewed at: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/17RS/SB1.htm>.

THE LEGISLATION SEEKS to align K-12 standards, accountability and assessments. It removes the influence of the common core state standards in a staggered process, implementing locally developed assessments based on locally accepted standards. Wilson said the new process ensures accountability and transparency. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is to implement standards and a review process for visual and performing arts, practical living and career studies and foreign language, as well as a writing program in the curriculum.

The state will test reading, writing, social studies, math, and science on the same schedule as currently in place, but there will be fewer tests. A college admission and placement test (e.g., ACT, SAT) will be given in the fall of grade 10 and spring of grade 11 at KDE expense. There is no requirement for WorkKeys testing. KDE will pay for the cost of exams to achieve industry-recognized certifications. There is no requirement for pathway sequence or preparatory status to take an industry certification exam. KOSSA is not mentioned in the legislation. KOSSA could be maintained, but KDE funding for industry certification exams only would make KOSSA meaningless.

KACTE Offers Suggestion to EPSB on Fee Increase

The Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) proposed increasing the fees for teacher certification and recertification. After discussing the proposal at its Jan. 12, 2017, meeting, the KACTE Board voted to send a letter to EPSB pointing out the impact of the fee increase on teachers whose wages are stagnant but whose personal costs have increased.

The EPSB's reason for the proposed increase is the fees have not increased since 1997. The proposal:

- increases the fee for issuance, reissuance, or renewal of a certificate from \$50-\$85;
- increases the fee for issuance of a 4-year certificate from \$35-50; and
- will not refund an application fee if it is denied.

KACTE suggested, if the fee is increased, to extend the certification period from five years to eight years or more to spread out the impact of the increase. KACTE also raised the effect on retired teachers who maintain their certification for substitute purposes, suggesting a lifetime certification for retired teachers. KACTE noted the shortage of CTE teachers, which is predicted to worsen in the future, adding that anything potentially limiting the entry of teachers in the profession should be considered carefully.

WILSON SAID teachers will be held accountable for productivity rather than activity. The accountability system will include progress toward English proficiency, quality of school climate and safety, high school graduation rates and postsecondary readiness, the latter term replacing "college readiness." There will be no program reviews. School districts will develop an implement a personnel evaluation system based on a statewide framework for teaching. Teachers, principals and assistant principals with continuing service status will be evaluated every three years, and the results cannot be used in school accountability.

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Secretary Heiner Says 'CTE as College' at Chamber Summit

Wilson said there will be some amendments to the legislation when a committee substitute is presented to the Education Committee. In general comments, Wilson and several other legislators speaking at the Jan. 30 Interim Committee hearing said constituent communication about the aspects of the bill were positive.

AS THE 2017 SESSION CONTINUES, legislation on charter schools (**HB103**, **SB70**) will be prominent. Details on all legislation are available on the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission website, www.lrc.ky.gov. Two bills have links to CTE programs.

- **SB106** would require KDE to develop and implement financial literacy and civic literacy programs, and require students to complete instruction in each to graduate high school.
- **HB62** would permit KEES scholarships to be used by students enrolled in registered apprenticeship programs.

Secretary Says CTE Is College

"CTE as college," was the declaration of Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary Hal Heiner at the Second Annual Kentucky Workforce Summit presented by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Lexington on Jan. 25. Heiner's concept is the skills and industry certifications obtained through rigorous and relevant Career and Technical Education (CTE) fulfills the requirement he cited that "99 out of 100 jobs go to someone with some college education."

Heiner's statement and other developments continue CTE's momentum as a vital component of a comprehensive educational system. At the Summit, the Secretary cited Work-Ready Dual Credit Scholarships, the Work-Ready Skills Initiative (School districts and community and technical colleges can compete for \$100 million in funding. More than \$500 million in applications were filed.), and Work-Ready Kentucky Scholarships as Bevin administration-backed programs related to CTE.

Rep. Carney Chairs Education

KACTE spoke with the new Chair of the Kentucky House Education Committee John (Bam) Carney. He works for the Taylor County Board of Education. In response to a question, he said:

"The role of CTE is to assist all children -- all students -- in finding the pathway that best meets their needs and skills; and then providing the educational opportunity to help them achieve that."

He expressed support for CTE as part of the educational system. "Our job is to educate the whole child and expose them to everything that's out there."

Generally, he thinks **SB1** is a positive step, and he's "okay" with using KEES to support apprenticeships.

Heiner said the competition for economic development is a battle over workforce, not other economic incentives. "Of all the things that will move the state forward, it will be education and workforce development that will lead the way," he said. "People are the ultimate resource." He said the state is looking at three ways to build the workforce:

- identify high-demand jobs and the pipeline to fill those jobs;
- ramp up skills and educational levels to match those jobs; and
- move 140,000 Kentuckians who have stopped looking for work back into the workforce. The goal is to propel Kentucky to the top half of workforce participation by its citizens. It now ranks 47th. He noted other impacts on participation are 5,000 annual military transitions to civilian life in the state, and 9,500 individuals exiting incarceration annually.

ERICA KASHIRI, Director of Policy, Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, said from the business perspective conversation should move from career-ready to career-competitive. Business needs a quality workforce to compete. She said each unfilled position costs business \$23,000 per year in foregone revenue. She cited a forecast there will be 6 million unfilled positions by 2020. Kentucky ranks eighth in the nation in the percentage of out-of-school/out-of-work youth ages 16-24 at 15.48 percent. The national average is 13.2 percent.

Making the point that workforce development is critical for Kentucky's future, Labor Cabinet Secretary Derrick Ramsey said there are 350,000 Kentuckians without a GED or credential. A total of 600,000-700,000 are not connected to the workplace. Supporting programs like the Tech-Ready Apprenticeships for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) builds on the 87 percent of those in apprenticeship programs that achieve journeyman status at a \$50,000 average annual salary.

LAURA ARNOLD, Associate Commissioner, Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education, said more incentives are needed to get business involved in education policy development. One policy change before the Kentucky General Assembly is to allow KEES scholarship money to be used for apprenticeship training. Jerry Burke, Area Coordinator, Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council on Carpenters and Millwrights Joint Apprenticeship Training, suggested consideration of community and technical colleges as part of apprenticeship.

A lot of attention at the Summit was directed at essential (also called employability or soft) skills. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce distributed an issue brief on essential skills, and John Wright, Community Relations Specialist, Hardin County Schools, explained the district's work ethic certification, which involves the "great eight" list of essential skills needed at the workplace.

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Kentucky Continues Progress; 115th Congress Begins

Kentucky at Forefront

In a reaffirmation of Kentucky's leadership in CTE quality and innovation, on Jan. 11 J.P. Morgan Chase and Co. announced Kentucky was one of 10 states to receive a \$2 million New Skills for Youth Initiative grant. The grant will provide funding for a competitive process to develop regional CTE career academies in Kentucky. The number of funded academies created over the next two years will be based on the number of participants in the applying consortiums.

In announcing the grant, Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt, Ph.D., said this initiative can change the face of CTE, and "it can change the way we think about secondary schools, as well. The days of thinking of CTE as something different from the rest of school has got to end." He added later his belief in the need to tear down walls between what was thought of as academic and career tech and create a new vision for education in Kentucky.

February Is CTE Month

Governor Matt Bevin signed a proclamation declaring February as Career and Technical and Entrepreneurial Education Month in Kentucky. Schools and districts are encouraged to hold school and community awareness events to commemorate the month. Suggestions and guidelines for various activities may be found on the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) website, www.kacteonline.org.

In Kentucky, the highlight activity is Student Organization Leadership Day in Frankfort on Feb. 14. Approximately 400 Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) officers and members will participate in a citizenship assembly at Frankfort High School and visit the State Capitol to meet with legislators, tour the building, and see the General Assembly in session. Resolutions marking the day in honor of CTSOs will be presented in both the House and Senate. CTSO state officers will meet with House and Senate leadership during the day.

In support of CTE Month, KACTE placed a display of posters highlighting CTE achievement in the tunnel that links the State Capitol and Capitol Annex during the first week of the General Assembly session Jan. 3-6. Follow-up correspondence was delivered to each legislator offering more information on CTE and Student Leadership Day.

115th Congress Begins

The 115th Congress has started its work, and some reorganization affects the Kentucky congressional delegation. Fifth District Representative Hal Rogers ended his tenure as Appropriations Committee chair, but he retains his committee membership and chairs a subcommittee on state and foreign operations.

Second District Representative Brett Guthrie retains his seat on the Education and Workforce Committee and will

chair the subcommittee on higher education and workforce development. Senator Mitch McConnell remains as the Senate Majority Leader.

KACTE received a letter from Sen. McConnell in response to correspondence supporting Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding and reauthorization. He wrote that CTE programs under the Perkins Act are important, and he recognized their value. However, he placed a priority on bringing the budget into balance while protecting most vital programs.

KACTE OFFICERS will travel to Washington March 12-15 to participate in the ACTE National Policy Seminar. Meetings will be requested with each member of Kentucky's congressional delegation, and KACTE members will meet with the legislative aide assigned to education policy. Any KACTE member is welcome to participate. Please advise KACTE Executive Director Michael R. Stone by e-mail (kmstone1951@gmail.com) if you will attend NPS.

CTE Is Infrastructure Investment

Mirroring the momentum to further relevant and rigorous CTE programs, the U.S. Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus held a well-attended briefing on how federal policy can support infrastructure improvements with CTE contributions. Speakers pointed out infrastructure is more than just roads and bridges. Infrastructure are items that are foundational for a thriving economy in the 21st Century, such as broadband access, energy distribution, drinking water, and schools. A study estimated by 2022 the U.S. will need 2.7 million new career-seekers to replace the retiring infrastructure workforce. CTE is the educational pathway for most of the infrastructure jobs mentioned.

Perkins Developments

Perkins funding is on hold until April. The 115th Congress, at the request of the new Trump Administration, passed a second stopgap continuing resolution to keep the government operating to April. Included was required budget reduction language that placed a small cut on Perkins. Kentucky's level of federal appropriations for Perkins Act programs remained unchanged. KACTE is continuing to ask Congress to restore any funding cuts to Perkins Act programs when the final continuing resolution is passed in April.

It is not known at this time when Congress may address Perkins Act reauthorization. A widely supported proposal, **HR5587**, *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, passed the House with a significant majority in the 114th Congress, but died when the Senate didn't address it prior to adjournment. Most of the House members who wrote and supported the bill return to the 115th Congress.