



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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BOARD OF EDUCATION MAKES FUNDING TOP PRIORITY

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – At its meeting in Frankfort today, the Kentucky Board of Education discussed its legislative priorities for the upcoming session of the General Assembly and approved its FY15-16 biennial budget request.

The board is making funding for public education its number one priority. The board is requesting that the General Assembly restore Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) funding to 2009 levels of \$3,866 per student which would require an additional \$60,000,000 in FY 15 and \$90,000,000 in FY 16 over current funding levels. Additional funding priorities include Flexible Focus Funds (professional development, including a focus on the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, textbooks -- digital content, preschool, safe schools and extended school services), Technology, College and Career-Readiness, District Turnaround Support, and Capital Budget projects for the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf.

“It’s pretty simple, if we don’t get the funding, our progress will be hindered and we may regress,” Education Commissioner Terry Holliday told the board. “Students will pay the price.”

As part of his regular report at the board meeting, the commissioner shared a resolution passed by the Rowan Co. Board of Education challenging members of the General Assembly to take action to “put students of the Commonwealth of Kentucky first, reinvest in their future and fully fund the mandates of Unbridled Learning (Senate Bill 1, 2009) to ensure that Kentucky’s public education system can offer students the path to college- and career-readiness.” The state board echoed the need for adequate and equitable funding and encouraged lawmakers to consider new revenue sources as the way to meet critical budget needs for education.

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During the meeting, the board reiterated its support for the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) in English/language arts and mathematics as well as those in science. Commissioner Holliday told the board KDE is moving forward with implementing the science standards but will have to hold off on testing until at least 2016 citing funding, district capacity and the time it takes to develop new tests. He emphasized that in no way is the state backing down from its support of the Next-Generation Science Standards and their incorporation into the KCAS.

In other business, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the commissioner's recommendation that the Robertson Co. school district be designated as "state-assisted." A management audit indicated the existence of a pattern of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in multiple areas. The local board has indicated it is supportive of improvement and wants to adequately address concerns, but feels it needs some outside help to do so effectively. KDE will provide management assistance to the district to develop and implement a plan to correct deficiencies found in the management audit. KDE will monitor the development and implementation of the corrective plan to improve the governance or administration of the school district.

The board took action on a number of items.

- approved changes to [704 KAR 3:305](#) governing minimum high school graduation requirements to clearly define what's required for early graduation. Under the regulation, half of the base SEEK funding for the student's senior year would go to the district; half would be available to the student as a college scholarship providing he or she meets the requirements.
- approved revisions to [702 KAR 7:125](#) which should result in clearer guidance to local districts in the area of attendance reporting and implementation of the Kentucky Student Information System
- approved the Statement of Consideration for [704 KAR 3:035](#), the Annual Professional Development Plan
- approved the Statement of Consideration for [702 KAR 1:115](#), Annual In-service Training of District Board Members
- approved a resolution in support of Safe Schools Week Oct. 20-26 (a text of the resolution can be found at the end of this release)

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The board also heard a progress report on AdvanceKentucky (see separate Advance Placement release) and updates on the Career and Technical Education, the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System and TELL Kentucky Survey.

Finally, the board discussed Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday's annual evaluation, noting that he is "doing a fantastic job and should stay the course." A formal written evaluation and goals for improvement will be presented to the commissioner at the next board meeting on December 4 in Frankfort.

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Kentucky Board of Education Resolution Proclaiming Safe Schools Week

Whereas, Schools make substantial contributions to the future of America and to the development of our nation's young people as knowledgeable, responsible, and productive citizens; and

Whereas, Excellence in education is dependent on safe, secure, and peaceful school settings; and

Whereas, The safety and well-being of many students, teachers, and school staff are unnecessarily jeopardized by crime and violence, such as substance abuse, gangs, bullying, poor discipline, vandalism, and absenteeism in our schools; and

Whereas, All leaders--especially those in education, law enforcement, government, and business--should eagerly collaborate with each other to focus public attention on school safety and identify, develop, and promote effective prevention-based responses to these critical issues; and

Whereas, Safe and respectful learning environments in schools and school districts throughout the country, along with innovative national programs, are among those effective responses; and

Whereas, The observance of Safe Schools Week encourages students, parents, educators, and the community to "Join the Team" and S.T.O.P. the Bullying, Violence and Risky Behavior in our schools to promote safe and secure learning climates.

NOW, THEREFORE, we proclaim October 20-26, 2013 as Safe Schools Week and encourage all fraternal, legal, government and professional associations, students and educators in America's schools to formally adopt similar resolutions and proclamations so that we may enthusiastically work together to make our schools safe, secure, and peaceful places for learning, teaching, and working.

Done this 8th day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

Roger L. Marcum, Chair
Kentucky Board of Education

Terry Holliday, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education

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