

**2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
of the  
**KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**  
Approved by the KASSP Board of Directors  
February 2, 2018

**PREAMBLE**

The Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals exists to promote the interest of secondary and middle school education. To assist with successfully accomplishment this role mission, KASSP calls on the legislative body to adopt laws relative to several significant issues that face middle and high school administrators in our state.

**FUNDING ISSUES**

It is the constitutional duty of the General Assembly to provide an adequate and equitable system of funding for the public schools. This duty supersedes all other legislative functions.

**Top Priority**

- ***Commit all growth in state revenues to increasing the SEEK base, and restore SEEK and all other flexible focus funds (professional development, safe schools, textbooks, FR/YSC's, etc.) to levels that provide constitutionally adequate funding to support academic improvement for all Kentucky students.***

**Other Priorities**

- Continue funding for the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program and reinstate funding for the Kentucky Principal Internship Program.
- Fund SEEK based on average daily membership (ADM), with no decrease in the per pupil amount.
- Increase the SEEK formula adjustment (add-on) for students in poverty.
- Restore flexible focus funding to its highest prior level.

**STUDENT, CURRICULUM, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES**

Accountability is at the heart of Kentucky's education system. In order for schools and school districts to provide the most productive, and highest quality educational experience, and successfully meet the needs of all students, KASSP supports the following:

**Top Priority**

- ***School personnel should be given an expanded role in the FAIR Team process currently used to deal with cases of habitual truancy.***

### **Other Priorities**

- Give schools a greater role in designing the programs and services that are provided to the state agency children (KECSAC) they serve.
- Provide multi-tiered academic, counseling, mental health, and behavioral services to students, delivered by fully qualified providers, at a level that assures that all students have adequate access to appropriate services.
- Increase the level of the awards to students for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to keep pace with tuition increases at public postsecondary institutions.
- The available bandwidth and use of virtual and distance learning should be expanded for all districts and students.
- Approved instructional resources for schools should shift away from textbooks and toward electronic and open source materials.
- Establish, expand, and fund a broader array of programmatic options (alternative programs, earlier access to technical programs, planned 5-year programs, etc.) for high school students to assure that the needs of all learners are met.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONNEL ISSUES**

To continue tangible progress toward proficiency, Kentucky's schools must attract and retain the highest quality teachers and school leaders possible.

#### **Top Priority**

- ***Take immediate steps to permanently assure the actuarial soundness of the Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS).***

#### **Other Priorities**

- Alter the tribunal process for certified employees to achieve more consistent results, and promote effective teaching.
- Provide greater flexibility to local districts and experienced teachers, through certification waivers and endorsements, to allow teachers to be assigned critical shortage areas and other hard-to-fill positions.
- Amend tenure statutes to clarify that substitute teaching and teaching under emergency certification do not qualify as credit toward tenure.
- Expand the activities which qualify for EILA credit so that school administrators can obtain credit without leaving their building or district.
- Expand model programs aimed at shifting routine duties away from principals (SAM program, e.g.) to allow them to focus on instructional duties.
- Simplify and expand the options available to school districts for employment of KTRS retirees.

## **GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

Safe, effective and efficient governance and management of the operations and resources of local school districts contributes directly to the success of students.

### **Top Priority**

- ***Adopt a set of enhanced qualifications and a legally binding code of ethics for local school board members.***

### **Other Priorities**

- Oppose the adoption of vouchers, tax credits, scholarships, or other measures aimed at diverting public funds from public schools in order to subsidize student attendance at private schools.
- Subject home schools to reasonable reporting and accountability requirements.