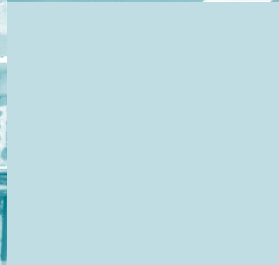
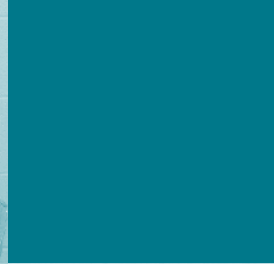




Kentucky Association of School Administrators



2012 Legislative Program

Preamble

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators commends the Kentucky General Assembly for its continued focus on providing quality elementary and secondary education opportunities for the children of our state, especially during the current difficult economic period. Only with the ongoing leadership and resolve of the legislature can Kentucky live up to its commitment to educational excellence.

KASA urges the General Assembly to continue to make P-12 education its highest funding and policymaking priority. Kentucky must match the efforts of the nation and the world in assuring that our students and citizens have access to the highest quality educational opportunities available.

KASA commits to a partnership with the General Assembly, and with all those who would continue to make the education of Kentucky's citizens their highest priority, in order to assure them a place in the world economy and the marketplace of ideas. To that end, we propose the following as our Legislative Program for the 2012 session of the Kentucky General Assembly:

Funding Issues

It is the constitutional duty of the General Assembly to provide an adequate and equitable system of funding for public schools. This duty supersedes all other legislative functions. KASA believes that the following priorities must be addressed in order for the legislature to fulfill its obligations toward P-12 education in Kentucky:

Top Priority

- **Preserve the SEEK base funding, commit all growth in state revenues to increasing the SEEK base, and restore pre-2008 funding levels for all other strands and programs (professional development, safe schools, textbooks, FR/YSC's, etc.).**

Other Priorities

- Oppose all unfunded mandates and cost-shifting to local districts.
- Provide state funding that is adequate to support full-day kindergarten in every school district.
- Fund expanded preschool programs to serve more children, but only after funding full-day kindergarten.
- Simplify and fully fund the transportation formula.



Revenue Issues

In addition to the funding issues detailed on the previous page that are the responsibility of the General Assembly, local school districts must be given additional opportunity and flexibility to generate revenue. KASA supports the following:

Top Priority

- **Adopt tax reform measures that provide for ongoing growth of state tax revenues based on the growth of the state's economy.**

Other Priorities

- Allow local school districts greater overall flexibility in their ability to raise revenue at the local level.
- Require local school districts to increase their level of support for the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky (FSPK) to 10 cents, not subject to recall, and equalize that amount with state funds.



Student, Curriculum, and Accountability Issues

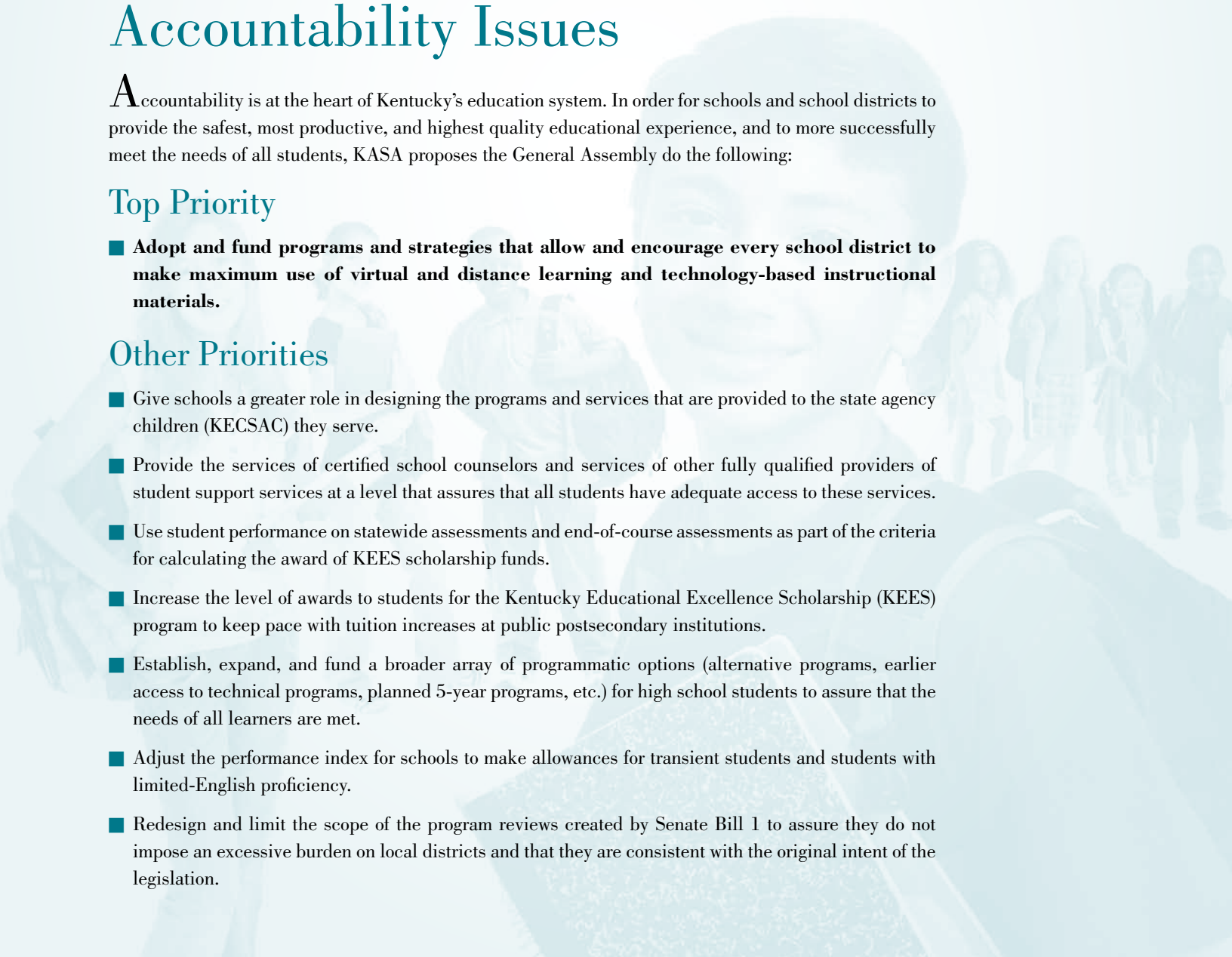
Accountability is at the heart of Kentucky's education system. In order for schools and school districts to provide the safest, most productive, and highest quality educational experience, and to more successfully meet the needs of all students, KASA proposes the General Assembly do the following:

Top Priority

- **Adopt and fund programs and strategies that allow and encourage every school district to make maximum use of virtual and distance learning and technology-based instructional materials.**

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 the services of certified school counselors and services of other fully qualified providers of student support services at a level that assures that all students have adequate access to these services.
- Use student performance on statewide assessments and end-of-course assessments as part of the criteria for calculating the award of KEES scholarship funds.
- Increase the level of awards to students for the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program to keep pace with tuition increases at public postsecondary institutions.
- 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.
- Adjust the performance index for schools to make allowances for transient students and students with limited-English proficiency.
- Redesign and limit the scope of the program reviews created by Senate Bill 1 to assure they do not impose an excessive burden on local districts and that they are consistent with the original intent of the legislation.



Professional and Personnel Issues

To continue the tangible progress toward proficiency, Kentucky's schools must attract and retain the highest quality teachers and school leaders possible. KASA supports the following actions to contribute to the recruitment and retention of school district staff:

Top Priority

- **Alter the tribunal process for certified employees who have been disciplined, to achieve more consistent results.**

Other Priorities

- Provide greater flexibility to local districts to allow experienced teachers, through certification waivers and endorsements, to be assigned to critical shortage areas and other hard-to-fill positions.
- Allow classified school employees with specialized medical training to accompany students on out-of-state trips in lieu of nurses.

- Give school districts more flexibility in the employment of KTRS retirees.
- Amend tenure statutes to clarify that substitute teaching and teaching under emergency certification do not qualify as credit toward tenure.
- Create and expand model programs aimed at shifting routine duties away from principals (SAM program, e.g.) to allow them to focus on instructional duties.
- Redesign the TELL survey and administer it through local school district offices in order to achieve more meaningful results.

Governance and Management Issues

Effective and efficient governance and management of the operations and resources of local school districts contribute directly to the success of students. KASA proposes the following measures aimed at improving these functions:

Top Priority

- **Establish reasonable and consistent guidelines for the adoption of school calendars that allow local districts the autonomy and flexibility to adopt a calendar that meets both the educational needs of students and the instructional time requirements set by the General Assembly.**

Other Priorities

- Allow local school boards to request waivers from state statutes and regulations in order to establish "schools of innovation."
- Revise and simplify the consultation process for principals and school councils.
- Make more technical assistance available to schools to assist them in complying with homeland security requirements.
- Exempt all school construction from prevailing wage laws.
- Subject home schools to reasonable reporting and accountability requirements.
- Continue to allow local school boards the discretion to determine whether to enter into collective bargaining agreements with their employees.

Kentucky Association of School Administrators
152 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
(800) 928-KASA • (502) 875-3411 • FAX (502) 875-4634
www.kasa.org

Connect with us!  www.twitter.com/KASAEdleader
 www.facebook.com/KASAEdleader


KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS