



Issues Update

February 3, 2022

Issues Update is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and shared with members. 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.

Kentucky House Budget Increases CTE Funding

Significantly increased funding for Career and Technical Education was included in the 2022-24 biennial state Executive Branch Budget. **House Bill 1**, as amended, passed the House on Jan. 20 and was sent to the Senate. The Senate will consider its priorities and may change the bill, which would lead to a conference committee to settle a final bill. No public action has occurred in the Senate.

Governor Andy Beshear presented an administration biennial budget proposal, but the House chose to move forward with its own version. Press reports and legislative observers think some of the Governor's proposals will get considered, but the bulk of the budget will be determined by the House and Senate, both of which have veto-proof Republican majorities.

Fortunately, both the House and the Governor's versions of the budget bill propose significant increases in education funding. They have different points of emphasis, but make the largest investment in education ever.

THE ORIGINAL HOUSE bill included a \$12 million increase in the CTE budget largely to make funding of Local Area Vocational Education Centers (LAVECs) more equitable. Amended by a committee substitute, the final House version increased CTE funding by an additional \$30 million. McCarthy Strategic Solutions (MSS) Legislative Agent Jeff Busick (KACTE contacts with MSS for legislative advocacy services.), said he worked with Representatives Bart Rowland, Steve Riley and C. Ed Massey whom he credited for getting the additional CTE funding in the amended bill.

"The committee substitute gets us a long way toward the long-term vision (of CTE operational funding)," Leslie Slaughter, Executive Adviser, Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), said. She related that in current statute, a school must have five or more CTE programs to receive funds. The long-term vision is to fund high-quality CTE programs. The five program rule no longer would apply, and a secondary school with only one program could receive funding if that program met the definition of high quality.

THE BACKGROUND and explanation for increasing funding through changing the allocations method for CTE appropriations is the KACTE white paper, *CTE: A Relevant*

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Thank You!

... and the next steps

The efforts of Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) members are resulting in funding increases, operational improvements, and more recognition of Career and Technical Education as essential for the state's economy and to improve individual quality of life.

As Leslie Slaughter, Executive Adviser, Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), commented at the Jan. 20 KACTE Board Meeting on **House Bill 1**, the budget bill that passed the House Jan. 20 and **included \$42 million in increased CTE funding**, "Today is a promising sign for persistence to get us here."

"The focus now is on the Senate," Jeff Busick, Legislative Agent, McCarthy Strategic Solutions (MSS), said at the KACTE Board meeting. KACTE contracts with MSS for legislative advocacy services. "Contact the Senate," he advised. The message is to retain the House funding level at a minimum, but it is appropriate to ask for additional funding.

As presented in the attached one page document that can be used as an advocacy tool, KACTE and OCTE are **seeking a \$54 million increase** to implement comprehensive CTE funding reform that supports high quality, secondary CTE programs regardless of where they are taught.

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Education, Providing an Effective CTE System for Kentucky, which may be found at www.kyacte.org. KACTE received full support from OCTE to develop the paper, which was requested by General Assembly members. Also supporting the need for increased appropriations is KACTE's 2020 research report, *Starving: Status Report on CTE Funding of Operations, Supplies and Equipment*, which is posted on the website's Issues section.

RELEVANT EDUCATION suggests establishing CTE allocations on a student full time equivalent (FTE) basis. **The first step would add \$54 million in each year of the coming biennium to the existing CTE funding sources.** The FTE model will address the equity and access concerns facing CTE in Kentucky as explained in the white paper. It would bring equity to ATC and CTC funding, as well as provide CTE funding for CTE programs in high school CTE departments that meet the definition of high-quality CTE. The change funds programs rather than buildings. It incentivizes opening more programs and providing opportunities to more students.

Recent announcements proclaim the economic development investment being made in Kentucky by business and industry. The resulting manufacturing, construction and service jobs will require high-level skills. CTE is and will be the best option for individuals to obtain needed workforce and workplace skills. CTE requires

investment to ensure it will meet the challenge of educating Kentucky's workforce, which will further economic growth across the Commonwealth.

As legislative advocacy moves to the Senate, the KACTE Board approved a one-page advocacy sheet (attached to this **Issues Update**) to help KACTE members and CTE professionals contact their senators and ask for consideration of additional funding to advance the FTE operational model. KACTE will work with OCTE to continually provide updated information on the return on investment in CTE programs.

Additional funding support proposed in the House bills added money to Area Technology Center (ATC) transportation and \$155 million for LAVEC facility construction/maintenance grants. KACTE and OCTE are asking that the budget language include ATCs as eligible recipients for facility grants.

Education Budget Notes

CTE was not the only education program receiving significant increases in the House budget. The base for SEEK funding moves to \$4,100 in fiscal year 2022-23, and to \$4,200 in FY 2023-24. The budget authorizes a 6 percent raise in teacher salaries, but does not specify the funding source of the raises, leaving that to local determination. Full-day kindergarten is funded, and more dollars are added for transportation, but not at 100 percent.

The House budget fully funds the actuarially required contributions to the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System (KTRS) at \$1.067 billion in 2022-23, and \$1.084 billion in 2023-24. It fully funds the state portion of health insurance for retired teachers under 65 years of age.

Significant increases in postsecondary funding included in the House bill are: \$50 billion each year to the performance-based funding model; \$20 million each year to improve the healthcare workforce; fully funds the pension subsidy; \$350 million each year, divided equally between public universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), to preserve property and facilities; fully funds a Workforce Participation Trust fund at all KCTCS locations; provides additional funding for the Work Ready Scholarship program.

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) President Aaron Thompson praised the Governor's and the House's budget proposals. "Their (Governor and legislator) support is crucial in maintaining affordability for students and their families, boosting student success and workforce outcomes, lifting disenfranchised citizens out of poverty and accelerating progress toward the state's goal of having 60 percent of working-age Kentuckians with a college-level certificate or degree by 2030. We simply can't have a

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Defining High-Quality CTE

To bring clarity to the burgeoning conversation around high-quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) and help CTE educators and administrators develop and improve the quality of their CTE programs of study, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) created an evidence-based framework defining high-quality CTE across 12 elements incorporating 92 criteria:

1. Standards-aligned and integrated curriculum.
2. Sequencing and articulation.
3. Student assessment.
4. Prepared and effective program staff.
5. Engaging instruction.
6. Access and equity.
7. Facilities, equipment, technology and materials.
8. Business and community partnerships.
9. Student career development.
10. Career and Technical Student Organizations.
11. Work-based Learning.
12. Data and program improvement.

More detail may be found at <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/>.

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thriving workforce and economy without a strong higher education system.”

Proposed Education Bills

The information on the following bills before the Kentucky General Assembly was verified Feb. 2, 2022. Please visit the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission website for current status: <https://legislature.ky.gov/Legislation/Pages/default.aspx>.

Senate Bill (SB) 59 passed the Senate 33-0 and currently is in the House Committee on Committees. There has been no further action. The bill deletes the requirement for the high school sophomore ACT test, and it amends the secondary accountability system to include indicators of postsecondary readiness such as industry-recognized credentials or work experience.

SB 1 passed the Senate 25-9 and currently is in the House Committee on Committees. The proposal changes the role of the site-base council to more advisory than decision making, placing the final authority with the superintendent, including the hiring of principals and curriculum. School funding requests will be made by superintendents, not councils. Local council policies must align with the adopted policies of the school board.

House Bill (HB) 85 is posted for passage by the House awaiting final action before being sent to the Senate for consideration. It reorganizes the dual credit scholarship by adding CTE course eligibility, deleting the Kentucky Work Ready Scholarship program, increasing the funding ceiling, and extending eligibility to high school freshmen and sophomores.

HB 126 is posted for passage by the House awaiting final action before being sent the Senate for consideration. It would require all graduating high school seniors to complete the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) form.

HB 44 passed the House 94-0 and currently is being considered by the Senate Education Committee. It permits granting student mental health days as excused absences.

HB 14 and 18 are perhaps the most controversial proposals providing that no public school or public charter school offers any classroom instruction or discussion that incorporates designated concepts related to race, sex, and religion. It proscribes penalties for violations of the law. Both are assigned to the House Committee on Committees, and there has been no further action.

The 2022 Kentucky General Assembly session will continue through April 14. The one requirement of the legislative session is to pass the state budget bills. KACTE will continue to monitor the session and provide updates as needed on impacts on and proposals affecting CTE.

Students Shine During CTE Month Activities

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Kentucky's CTE students and Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) state officers will be prominent in the State Capitol on Kentucky's CTE Student Leadership Day, Feb. 8.

Governor Andy Beshear signed a proclamation declaring February Career and Technical and Entrepreneurial Education Month. The theme set by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) for the national commemoration is ***Celebrate Today; Own Tomorrow!***

Schools are encouraged to publicize the relevance and quality of CTE in their community during CTE Month.

At the State Capitol, CTSO state officers will meet with leadership of the General Assembly. They will not lobby for CTE, but they stand as examples of the relevance and quality of CTE in Kentucky. CTE is critical to the state's economic and workforce development, and it contributes to individuals attaining a higher standard of living.

FOLLOWING AN ASSEMBLY of about 300 CTE students from around the Commonwealth on the citizens role in the legislative and governing process at Frankfort High School, they will go to the State Capitol to meet with their senator and representative, tour the Capitol, and watch the General Assembly sessions that convene at 2 p.m. The students will be noticeable in their official dress walking through the halls of the Capital and Capital Annex.

Floor resolutions or citation will be introduced before the Senate and House of Representatives recognizing CTE, CTSOs, and Student Leadership Day. Hewett Lessenberry, Technology Students Association (TSA) State President who attends Glasgow Independent High School, will speak at the House Education Committee meeting at 8 a.m. on Feb.8. Kelly Baird, FFA State Vice-President who attends the University of Kentucky, will speak at the Senate Education Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 10.

On the evening of Feb. 7, CTSO state officers will participate in a legislative leadership training in Frankfort. They will learn the proper form for meeting with legislators along with details about Kentucky's legislative and governing process.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DAY is organized by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) in collaboration with the CTSO State Advisers in the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE). This will be the 20th year KACTE and OCTE have cooperated to provide a unique citizenship learning opportunity for CTE Students.

KENTUCKY CTE EMPOWERED

Today's Career and Technical Education

A Win-Win for Kentucky!

- ★ *A foundational question an entrepreneur or company must face is whether the skills exist and are readily available to produce a quality product and profit.*
- ★ *Failure to answer the question positively impedes economic development.*
- ★ *While economic development and workforce development can occur simultaneously, having a skilled workforce available speeds the process.*
- ★ *Building a skilled workforce not only supports continued economic development, but also it uplifts society by enhancing an individual's ability to attain a better quality of life.*
- ★ *It's a true win-win to invest in Career and Technical Education (CTE), which is the educational bedrock of skill training and workforce development.*

CTE wins for Kentucky, but it can be enhanced to help Kentucky win more!

Kentucky CTE at the middle school, secondary and postsecondary levels has advanced by many measures in recent years. It is more than the vocational education many adults remember from their school days. It is a challenging, rigorous academic and skilled curriculum that helps individuals find their work calling leading to a better quality of life.

- ➔ Kentucky CTE accomplishments include a 99 percent secondary graduation rate, increasing attainment of skill certifications and associate degrees at the secondary and postsecondary levels, and true career exploration in middle school. Enrollment in CTE courses and programs among all 16 career clusters and program pathways is growing.
- ➔ ***But equity among CTE programs and CTE access for all students for their career pursuit is lacking.***
- ➔ Kentucky CTE needs funding to support hands-on project based learning that truly prepares students for the world of work and continuing education.
- ➔ Kentucky CTE needs a re-structured operational model that addresses the equity and access issues. Regardless of the student's location -- from the Mississippi River to the Mountains, from Ohio to

Tennessee -- access to the appropriate program and equality of instruction should be the same and a hallmark of the system.

- ➔ ***Addressing these twin issues is essential to continue CTE's advancement and to support Kentucky's economic and societal growth.***
- ➔ Consider that CTE is THE educational base for the jobs in Kentucky's identified five targeted industry sectors: Advanced Manufacturing, Business and Information Technology, Construction, Healthcare, and Transportation and Logistics.

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) seeks an increase of \$54 million for CTE funding each year of the 2022-24 biennial state budget to begin the transition to a new operational design based on an FTE model. Details of KACTE's recommendation may be found in CTE: A Relevant Education, a KACTE white paper posted at www.kyacte.org in the Issues Section.



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Click on QR Code below to
read KACTE white paper,
CTE: A Relevant Education

