



# Issues Update

April 6, 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](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com) or 502-223-1823.

## General Assembly Doubles CTE Funding in Budget

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) asked the Kentucky General Assembly to increase funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) by \$52 million in the 2022-24 biennial budget. The General Assembly exceeded the request. **House Bill 1** that was delivered to the Governor on March 31 funded CTE at \$126 million in each year of the biennium that begins July 1.

The KACTE request was based on the 2021 KACTE white paper, *CTE: A Relevant Education*, which was written by a select committee of KACTE members that included representation from the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE). The request also was based on a 2020 KACTE research paper, *Starving*, that detailed the lack of CTE supply and equipment funding. Both documents can be accessed in the Issues Section of the KACTE website, [www.kyacte.org](http://www.kyacte.org).

**"EXCEEDING THE GOAL** for CTE funding by the General Assembly is a remarkable achievement in advocacy for KACTE," KACTE President Kelli Dickson, family and consumer sciences teacher, Monroe County High School, said. She credited KACTE members for their outreach contacts with their Kentucky senators and representatives, and the effective, continuous advocacy efforts of KACTE's contract legislative agent, McCarthy Strategic Solutions.

"This achievement shows the value of a professional association working together with partners to achieve needed funding for CTE in Kentucky," Dickson said. The funding will help bring true equity and accessibility to CTE across the Commonwealth. In *CTE: A Relevant Education*, KACTE urged adoption of a method of funding high-quality secondary CTE programs regardless of location at Area Technology Centers (ATC), Locally Operated Career Technology Centers (CTE) or comprehensive high schools. **HB1** defines a comprehensive high school with five or more CTE programs as a Local Area Vocational Education Center (LAVEC), and extends supplemental funding to any comprehensive high school with less than five CTE programs.

**"As great as this CTE funding is, it brings with it a huge challenge to continue increasing the quality and relevance of CTE in Kentucky," Dickson said. "We got what we wanted; now, we have to produce. Our students, our communities and our state deserve our best effort."**

## KACTE Visits Washington; Perkins Funding Increased

Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) Past-President Margo Bruce, agriculture teacher, Webster County High School; Secretary Sharon Collins, family and consumer sciences teacher, Warren East Middle School; and Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Region 2 Policy Committee Member Dexter Knight, principal, Jessamine Career Technology Center, led a delegation of KACTE members in visits to Kentucky congressional delegation offices March 21-22.

They met with staff of Senators Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell, and Representatives James Comer, Brett Guthrie, Harold Rogers and Andy Barr. On March 28, a virtual meeting was held with Rep. John Yarmuth's staff. KACTE thanked the senators and representatives for their long-standing support of the Perkins Act basic funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE). They also asked for support of the American COMPETES Act, which includes authorizing Pell Grants to be used for high-quality, short-term CTE instruction.

Representatives Comer, Guthrie, Yarmuth, Rogers and Barr all are members of the Congressional CTE Caucus.

Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriation bill in March, which was immediately signed into law by President Biden. It includes a \$45 million increase in Perkins Act basic state grant funding.

Also in March, the Biden administration released its Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal. The CTE community was disappointed the proposal cuts the Perkins Act basic state grant by \$25 million. However, it includes a \$200 million proposal for a new Career-Connected High School initiative.

Governor Andy Beshear has until April 12 to sign **HB1**, veto it, or issue line-item vetoes. It is anticipated he

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will veto some portions of the bill; however, with a 75-25 majority in the House and a 30-8 majority in the Senate, Republicans can override any veto.

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING** for CTE in **HB1** includes almost \$8 million in each year of the biennium for vocational transportation. Step and rank increases for ATC staff were funded at \$424,400 in 22-23 and \$443,900 in 23-24. The Kentucky School for the Blind received an \$8 million appropriation each year, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf appropriation is almost \$11 million each year,

Of the \$126 million CTE funding, \$70 million is directed toward LAVECs, with the LAVEC allocation determined by 2018-19 full-time-equivalent (FTE) student enrollment. LAVEC construction received \$155 million in 22-23, and the Pike County ATC received \$14 million in 22-23.

The Dual Credit Program is funded at \$13 million each year, and the Work-Ready Scholarship Program is funded at almost \$11 million each year. Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) gets \$500,000 each year.

School-based mental health services receives almost \$7.5 million each year, and the Kentucky Center for School Safety gets \$13 million each year.

**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION** also received increases. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is funded at \$1.111 billion in 22-23, and

\$1.086 billion in 23-24. A total of 36 KCTCS projects will be funded at \$103 million in each year of the biennium.

Overall, education funding is increased more than \$1 billion in **HB1**. The SEEK funding formula for elementary and secondary schools was increased to \$4,100 in 22-23 and \$4,200 in 23-24. The bill authorizes full-day kindergarten. SEEK transportation was increased about \$60 million to \$274 million. Budget language encourages local school districts to raise teacher salaries, but left the details to the local district. The matching amount earmarked for the Kentucky Teachers Retirement System was \$438.5 million in 22-23 and \$448.5 million in 23-24. Family Resource and Youth Service Centers are funded at \$48.9 million each year.

**EDUCATION LEGISLATION** that passed the General Assembly, with all but one delivered to the Governor but not signed into law or vetoed by April 5, include:

- **SB59**, which deleted the requirement for the 10th grade college admissions examination and restructured the statewide accountability system to include postsecondary readiness indicators, passed the Senate 33-0 and the House 98-0.
- **SB1** assigns greater authority to school superintendents in the principal hiring process and setting curriculum. It decreases the authority of Site-Based Decision Making Councils. A late floor amendment to **SB1** added the provisions of **SB138**, the Teaching American Principles Act, which sets guidelines for middle and high school social study instruction. **SB138** passed the Senate 28-8, but had not passed the House. The original **SB1** passed the Senate 25-9, and the amended version passed the House 67-29. The Senate concurred with the House version 21-15-11.
- **HB1**, which places a funding model for charter schools in statute, clarifies authorizer requirements, and establishes two charter school pilot programs in West Louisville and Northern Kentucky, passed the House 51-46 and the Senate 22-14. **HB1** faces a likely veto from Gov. Beshear. There is increasing constituent communication urging the veto and requesting the General Assembly not to override the Governor's veto. The closeness of the House vote could indicate the veto may not be overridden.
- **HB277**, which establishes a student loan forgiveness program for teachers certified through an expedited process with a residency component and lets emergency certificate holders renew the certification for the 22-23 school year, passed the House 97-0 and the Senate 36-0.
- **HB44**, which would allow a district to permit a mental health day as an excused absence, passed the House 94-0. It was amended in the Senate to give discretion to the local district whether to provide an excused mental health day. The House must concur with the Senate amendment or the bill would be subject to a conference committee.

The legislature will meet April 13-14 for veto overrides and to consider other legislation before adjourning.

## 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/>.