



# Issues Update

November 28, 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.

## Legislators Suggest Policy Focus for 2023 Session

The intensions conflict between Gov. Andy Beshear and General Assembly leadership over the direction of the 2023 session. The 30-day session begins Jan. 3, 2023, and consists of 30 working days.

Speaking at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Legislative Preview Conference in Lexington on Nov. 14, Speaker of the House David Osborne said, "You never can anticipate what may happen during a session," but he added, "It's time to return to the original intent of the short session (which was to focus on policy). This is the first year in four years we'll not have to do anything on the budget."

That's where the conflict arises. Beshear wants to re-open the biennial budget for significant spending increases for education. With the record state budget surplus, current state revenues running ahead of projections, and anticipated large increases in employment in the future due to economic development efforts like the Ford battery factory in Hardin County, Beshear said now is the time to invest in education.

His plan starts with a 5 percent pay increase for every public school employee, from teacher to cafeteria staff. It includes funding universal pre-kindergarten, textbooks and professional development, student loan forgiveness for teachers, and social and mental health programs. Additionally, he wants the General Assembly to consider restoring the teacher pension system that was in place prior to a 2021 restructuring of the system. Beshear said pensions are the number one benefit to attract teachers.

**NONE OF THE SPEAKERS** at the Chamber Preview advocated for re-opening the budget. Osborne pointed to the Nov. 8 election results as part of the reason for a short session focused on policy issues and not budget. "The people of Kentucky affirmed our priorities for the state." The election results strengthened Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. Republicans hold 80 of the 100 House seats, and 31 of the 38 Senate seats.

Senate President Robert Stivers explained the budget needs to be considered in the context of the whole. "Why would we want to talk about piecemeal in the budget?" he said. The two leaders listed non-budget issues to address.

A policy priority session was evident, too, in comments from a panel of legislators on education and workforce issues. All the items noted likely will require a financial investment, but none mentioned funding in the

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### *OCTE Seeks Distribution of CTE Funding Method*

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) was represented at two meetings of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Advisory Committee organized by the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE).

At the May 31 meeting, the results of the 2022 Kentucky General Assembly session were reviewed, noting the increase in CTE funding and the direction to direct money to high-quality programs anywhere in the public school systems. (More detail on the 2022-24 budget is in the April 6 *Issues Update*, <https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Issues-Update-4-6-22.pdf>.)

The May 31 meeting was the last for retiring Associate Commissioner David Horseman. At the Nov. 19 meeting, Chair Harmony Little, from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), recognized the new OCTE leadership: Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis and Division Directors Tom Thompson, Beth Engle, Larry Garrity and Regan Satterwhite.

At both meetings, the process toward a new CTE funding formula was discussed. Using the 12 standards in the High-Quality CTE Framework developed by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), OCTE plans to seek input from and work with partners and affected groups to recommend a new funding formula for consideration in the 2024-26 biennial budget. (For more detail on the ACTE High-Quality CTE Framework, please go to <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/>.)

The meetings highlighted new initiatives including a new College and Career Advising Platform that is a one-stop shop for all learners to get tools for guiding a career path. It is a collaboration of KDE, KYstats, and the Council for Postsecondary Education.

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2023 session. Rather, they indicated the need to work out what will be recommended for the 2024-26 budget.

Senate Education Committee Chair Max Wise listed recovery from learning loss caused by the pandemic school shutdown and remote instruction, early childhood education, and read to achieve.

Potential House Education Committee Chair Steve Riley (former chair Rep. Regina Huff retired) spoke about teacher retention, saying there should be a review of Praxis

## KACTE's Outreach Adopted

During the interim between General Assembly sessions, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the largest employer-led advocacy group in the state, which typically spends more than any organization on legislative advocacy, developed a paper with recommendations on child care and updated its 2023 legislative advocacy agenda.

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) is a member of the Chamber and submitted recommendations for inclusion in both documents. Both were accepted.

In the child care recommendations, KACTE's suggestion appeared in the final document as: *"In addition, the Chamber encourages the deployment of strategies and resources, including Family and Consumer Sciences education programs, to encourage secondary and post-secondary students in Kentucky to explore early childhood development as a future career path."*

The Chamber's legislative agenda added a new section suggested by KACTE specifically on Career and Technical Education (CTE): *"The Chamber commends the 2022 General Assembly for investing in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and directing the flow of funding to enhance secondary instruction across the Commonwealth. CTE concentrators' 98 percent high school graduation rate speaks to the relevance of coursework that interests students. Employers are encouraged to participate on local CTE advisory boards to help shape the coursework needed to support their businesses and the local economy. With the Chamber Foundation's Bus-to-Business® program as a component, local businesses can assist with career exploration, which can guide students toward careers in their areas of interest by utilizing the Foundation's Talent Pipeline Management® pathways. Education officials, legislators, and businesses must work to address the shortage of teachers who can impart the skills education required to meet the job demands of economic development."*

Having different advocacy groups all support CTE is a valuable path to legislative success.

exams, consideration of the Tennessee model to recruit your own teachers, and how to make teaching an esteemed profession.

Representative Killion Timoney highlighted the need for different paths to teacher certification. Representative Josie Raymond spoke of encouraging family stability.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL** Education (CTE) was supported by all the panelists. Riley wants more emphasis on technical jobs. "Value those jobs, not devalue them," he said. Noting there are different paths for different people, he added, "Figure out their skill set. Let them learn what is out there, what it offers."

Timoney tied Riley's comments to teacher recruitment. "We've got to make sure skill teachers are available. We can't reach the goal of a robust economy without (credentials)." Wise praised Area Technology Centers, particularly their partnership with business. Raymond noted the importance of apprenticeships, but warned about attacking unions that provide many apprenticeships.

Wise suggested it may be culture that impedes people from going to work. He said everything cannot be legislated. Motivation starts at home. Raymond said sometimes there are conflicting priorities. Some don't go to work because of childcare.

## Federal Budget and CTE

Congress is embarking on a lame-duck session following the Nov. 8 election, which resulted in Republicans gaining the majority in the House of Representatives. Democrats retain control of the Senate. The split legislature will make it difficult for President Joe Biden to pass his initiatives.

Democrats will try to pass a Fiscal Year 2023 budget, but analysts expect Republican roadblocks so the budget can be determined when they have the House majority. Currently, the federal government is operating on a continuation of the FY2022 budget.

For 2023, the House proposed a \$45 million increase in CTE funding in the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Senate version included a \$60 million increase for CTE. ACTE notes that based on inflation CTE funding is \$400 million below the 2004 level. The incoming Republican majority in the House trends fiscally conservative. That could make obtaining any increase difficult.

The Biden administration is proposing a Pathways to Success initiative that will be designed to embed career-connected learning across the spectrum of all educational programs. This initiative fits with Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona's vision of career-connected learning. The Career-Connected High Schools Grant initiative is proposed at \$200 million. It seeks to connect high-paying, high skilled jobs with business partners.