Outcomes of the
2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly
Impacting Students & Schools

Presented at the KECSAC Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference
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Orientation

- 30-day “short” session
- New Republican super-majority in control of House of Representatives
- Some of the key players…
Senate Priority

- **SB 1** – ESSA implementation – “Let Teachers Teach”
- 3 years in making, renewed this year by testimony of U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee)
  - New Standards Process
  - New Assessments
  - New Accountability
  - New Personnel Evaluation
  - New Turnaround Systems
  - and of course, New Terminology
House Priority

- **School Choice**, the umbrella term
- Charter School legislation was enacted (**HB 520**)
- Scholarship Tax Credits (**SB 102** and **HB 162** – did not pass *this year*)
- On the horizon:
  - Open enrollment across any/all district boundaries
  - Vouchers
Other Perennial Topics

- Neighborhood Schools (attendance at school nearest to home)
  (HB 151 - did not pass this year)

- Home school student extracurricular participation
  (HB 58 - “Tim Tebow” bill – did not pass this year)
Whose money is it anyway?

An underlying issue impacting many of these legislative proposals is that of funding, more to the point, whose money is it?

- The Peoples’
- The parents’
- The students’
- The individual taxpayer’s
- The Board of Education
Let’s dive in… what did they change?

Key House Bills that passed….

• **HB 3** – Prevailing wage repealed
• **HB 33** – CHFS notification to schools upon custody change of abused children
• **HB 128** – Elective Bible literacy curriculum to be established by KBE
• **HB 195** – New high school equivalency program/diploma
• **HB 206** – Dual credit scholarship program; use of KEES award for apprenticeships
• HB 241 – Returning athletes to play/practice following concussion
• HB 269 – Easing anti-nepotism rules for substitute staff
• HB 277 – Easing anti-nepotism rules for local board of education
• HB 471 – State budget amendments: SEEK surplus for transportation; capital outlay for operating expenses; (1-year) charter school funding
• HB 520 – Charter schools
• HB 522 – State agency children may seek high school equivalency at age 17
• HB 524 – Public schools to post National Human Trafficking Hotline
Now to the Senate

Key Senate Bills that passed…

• **SB 1** – “Let Teachers Teach”
• **SB 17** – Student religious and political expression
• **SB 50** – School calendar; committee; procedures; late-August incentive
• **SB 104** – Pension spiking cost relief
• **SB 117** – Process for provisional teaching certificates to veterans with a bachelor degree
• **SB 159** – Civics test as new graduation requirement
• **SB 236** – Child abuse and neglect background check requirements for employment decisions (CHFS registry)
Next Session

• Looking ahead to a special session in the Fall (tax and pension reforms)
• In 2018, the General Assembly will enact a state budget for FY 18-20 biennium
• Also, perennial bills will return:
  • Neighborhood schools
  • Tim Tebow
  • Tax credits and other school choice concepts
A few electives

• New state plan will be submitted in September to USED.
• Depending on the provisions of the final plan, and any amended standards, we may see legislation regarding:
  • Dyslexia training and response-to-intervention (HB 307)
  • Essential skills curriculum and graduation requirements (HB 454)
  • Financial literacy curriculum and possibly graduation requirement (SB 106)
Quick half-credit of legal research

Full-text of every bill cited herein may be located on the LRC website

lrc.ky.gov

As an example, the next 4 slides illustrate how to locate the text of the final version of SB 1
Legislative Record Online
17RS
WWW Version *

This information is updated as needed for the 2017 Regular Session.

Last updated: 4/17/2017 2:51 PM (EDT)

Effective date of non-emergency legislation passed by this year’s legislative session will be June 29, 2017

Front Page Information

In Senate
In House
Passed
Bills In Committee

Bill Status Information

Bills
Resolutions
Bills & Amendments by Sponsor

Senate or House
Senate Bills

17RS

WWW Version


AN ACT relating to public education and declaring an emergency.

Amend KRS 156.557 to require school districts to develop and implement a personnel evaluation system based on a statewide framework for teaching; prohibit the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) from imposing reporting requirements related to the system on local districts; require evaluations annually for teachers who have not attained continuing service status and every three years for teachers with continuing service status, principals, and assistant principals; prohibit evaluation results from being included in school accountability; amend KRS 156.160 to allow a foreign (continued)
Reorganization of Education Boards

- Attorney General Beshear threatened a legal challenge if it was not withdrawn in 7 days, alleging at least 7 “illegal actions” in the order.
- Gov. Bevin issued Ex. Order 2017-364 on June 16\(^\text{th}\), which rescinded and superseded the first order.
- General Beshear filed suit in the Franklin Circuit to challenge new order on June 20. (No. 17-CI-00673).
Major Provisions of E.O. 2017-364

• Created all new “Charter Schools Advisory Council” of 9 voting members.
• Added 3 new voting members to the “Standards and Assessments Process Review Committee” created by SB 1.
• Altered process for appointments to Council on Postsecondary Education.
• Added 4 new “non-voting advisors” to the KY Board of Education.
E.O. 2017-364, cont.

- Abolished and re-created:
  - Education Professional Standards Board
  - School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council;
  - Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee;
  - State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education; and
  - State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children.
Before you leave this room!

To inform your legislators, please add this number to your contacts:

1-800-372-7181

LRC Message Line