



Issues Update

June 1, 2023

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.

Looking Back at '23 GA Session; Turning Focus to '24

The 2023 Kentucky General Assembly 30-day session was not expected to produce significant legislation. But that changed when the House introduced, the Senate agreed, and both chambers overrode Gov. Andy Beshear's veto of a bill further lowering the state's personal income tax.

There were several more important pieces of legislation that passed, including several impacting education. The bill that gained the most attention and accompanying controversy dealt with how schools and teachers manage transgender issues. There also was legislation to increase teacher recruitment and retention (please see article on next page).

Impacting Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and public school educators in general was passage and approval by the Governor of **Senate Bill 3**, which will provide next year for \$1 million in excess liability insurance coverage for each teacher. The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) has debated many times whether to increase dues to provide professional liability insurance coverage for all members. Now, that will be a benefit provided by the state and local district. KACTE members were asked to contact their representative and senator in support of **SB3**.

KACTE did not ask for member action on any other legislation, but KACTE was impacted by **SB7**, which forbids payroll deduction of dues to organizations that engage in partisan political activity, such as contributing to a Political Action Committee or working for candidates for office. KACTE originally was on the prohibited list, but communication with the state Personnel Cabinet explained KACTE does not, and never has, engaged in partisan political activity. Within the bounds of federal IRS regulations, KACTE does provide information to state and federal legislators to advocate for CTE.

SB25 adds three hours of achieving dual credit or postsecondary articulated credit to the postsecondary readiness indicator. Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) Policy Adviser Regan Satterwhite at the May 11 OCTE CTE Advisory Committee said **SB25** is an extension of **SB59** passed in the 2022 General Assembly session to amend the accountability system. She said the course is not limited as a high school course or within the

continued on next page

OCTE Preps Legislative Recommendation for CTE Funding Distribution

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Advisory Committee to the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) met both in-person and virtually on May 11. The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) representative is a permanent member of the committee.

Matt Chaliff, OCTE Agricultural Education Consultant, presented the recommendations of the Strategic Funding Workgroup that he chaired. The Workgroup researched how best to implement the distribution of CTE funding the General Assembly approved in the 2022-24 Biennial Budget. In addition to almost doubling CTE funding, the budget language directed support to any CTE program in a public school that met a definition of high-quality CTE. This opened funding beyond Area Technology Centers (ATC) and locally operated Career Technology Centers (CTC), also known as Local Area Vocational Education Centers (LAVECs).

Chaliff said the Workgroup addressed three objectives: adequate, equitable, and incentivize. The recommendation is a hybrid model, with 60 percent of the funding distributed based on full-time equivalent (FTE) students and 40 percent incentive-based using high-quality indicators. Mentioned as incentive indicators were completers, work-based learning (WBL), dual credit, and technical skills attainment.

Additional considerations discussed were areas without WBL opportunities, a hold-harmless provision, a phase-in process, and possible transportation challenges. Committee member Sen. Jimmy Higdon suggested a local matching option.

The recommendations will be presented to the Kentucky General Assembly for adoption or amendment in the 2024 60-day budget session that begins Jan. 2.

Looking Back at '23 GA Session; Turning Focus to '24

KACTE Partnering with OCTE to Increase CTE Recruitment, Retention

There is a shortage of public school teachers in Kentucky. Appearing before the Kentucky House of Representatives Education Committee in February, Education Commissioner Jason Glass, Ed.D., said the number of teachers entering the profession nationally has declined by one-third. He added, Kentucky entrants from teacher prep programs has been stable the past five years; the more acute problem is retention. The national benchmark for turnover is 15 percent. In Kentucky in 2022, it was 20.4 percent.

In Career and Technical Education (CTE), which requires teachers with technical-skill ability, the recruitment is as important an issue as retention.

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) is partnering with the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) to develop a plan to increase CTE teacher recruitment and enhance CTE teacher retention.

The first step in the partnership is gathering information on national best practices in teacher recruitment and retention at the **Teach CTE Summit** in St. Paul, MN, June 27-29. Using KACTE Professional Development Grant funding, OCTE's Bethanne Engle and KACTE Secretary Sharon Collins will attend the Summit. They will prepare a report summarizing their findings, and KACTE and OCTE will meet to consider what initiatives may work in Kentucky and how to implement them. At this time, there is no timetable for plan development or implementation, except to note it needs to take place sooner rather than later.

Teacher recruitment and retention is an issue addressed in **House Bill 319** that passed in the 2023 Kentucky General Assembly session. The bill adopts the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, has provisions for an interim teaching certificate, and establishes a Kentucky Educator Placement System among other items. The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) formed a coalition to suggest ways to increase recruitment and retention.

Nationally, the issue is behind the Respect, Advancement, and Increasing Support for Educators (RAISE) Act and the Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now (RETAIN) Act that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

regular school day or year, but it still must be aligned with a credential or associate degree. Approved apprenticeships must meet the 300 hour requirement for work-based learning.

Satterwhite added that OCTE is collaborating with the Education and Workforce Cabinet to develop a "WBL ecosystem." The core component will be to meet the needs of business and industry and the education system. She also said the number one priority for the 2024 General Assembly session will be funding (please see article on previous page).

SB54 allows Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarships (KEES) to be used by students attending proprietary schools that cannot participate in the federal Pell Grant program. Students currently can seek reimbursement for participating in approved registered apprenticeship or qualified workforce training programs. To be eligible for KEES, the student must be enrolled in the high-demand occupations cited by the state Workforce Innovation Board.

FEBRUARY 21 was a significant date for CTE at the Kentucky Capitol. More than 400 CTE student members of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs) participated in Student Leadership Day and displays at the Capital of outstanding CTE programs. Gov. Beshear signed a proclamation declaring February Career and Technical Education Month. A CTSO officer spoke at the House Education Committee meeting, and on Feb. 23 addressed the Senate Education Committee. The House passed a resolution recognizing CTSOs and CTE Month, and the Senate issued a similar citation.

LEGISLATIVE ATTENTION now turns to the 2024 60-day General Assembly session that begins on Jan. 2. The dominating action will be development and passage of a 2024-26 Biennial Budget. KACTE's officers and Liaison Committee members will meet with representatives of McCarthy Strategic Solutions, KACTE's contract Legislative Agent, to consider an advocacy plan for the session. As usual, advocating for adequate CTE funding will be a priority.

A Special Committee Task Force on School and Campus Safety will meet during the interim this summer and fall to review the implementation of school safety measures authorized by **SB1** passed in 2019. The Task Force also will review access to mental health services provided within districts.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, there is little to report regarding CTE. The budget and appropriation process was stalled by the debate and resolution of the debt-ceiling issue. The President's budget proposed a \$54 million increase in Perkins Act funding for CTE, but the announced compromise on the debt ceiling calls for no increase in spending in Fiscal Year 2024. Legislation that may be addressed includes reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the JOBS Act to increase short-term Pell Grants, and reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation Act.