**Review of Selected Legislative Bills** 4/22/22

The legislature will return for the veto session April 25. A number of bills have been worked in conference committees in attempts to find agreement that will pass both chambers. A few of those bills are listed below. Some are not yet printed and available to the public, so details may be a little sketchy.

**SB 563** contains the State Board of Education redistricting map. It passed both chambers and has gone to the Governor for approval. The map is known as Apple 7 and may be found on the KLRD website <http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Redistricting-2022-Plans.html>.

**HB 2466** requires high schools to offer a computer science course by 2023-24. A bill was added dealing with credentials earned in CTE courses. The bill requires KSDE to conduct a survey of the scope of high-value and standard credential career and technical courses offered for students in each high school. The bill lists a number of issues to be included in the survey such as the number of career pathways, first-time pass rates, credentials earned, and accommodations for students with IEPs. A pilot program would provide each participating high school in the Washburn Institute of Technology service area with a $500 stipend for additional student counseling services and will reimburse the district for the cost of any credential exam taken by a participating student.

**HB 2596** has been moved into **SB 215**. The responsibility for commercial driver education programs will now move to the Department of Revenue. The bill also allows school districts to contract with a Transportation Network Company (TNC) to transport eight or fewer students to and from school. KSDE’s school bus safety unit has some concerns with this bill because TNCs do not meet the same safety regulations as school passenger vehicles.

**SB 160** is now the fairness in women’s sports act, mandating that athletic teams sponsored by public schools or postsecondary institutions shall be designated as male, female, or coed based on biological sex. Males may not participate on teams designated for females. The Governor has vetoed this bill.

**SB 58** is now the parents bill of rights. Among other requirements, parents must receive advance copies of nonacademic tests questionnaires, surveys, and examinations and the parent must opt-in before the student may participate. As currently amended, there is no allowance for counselors to administer a suicide risk assessment. The Governor has vetoed this bill.

**House Sub for SB 91** is from last year and was just entered into conference committee prior to first adjournment. It exempts businesses from liability for injuries to students participating in work-based learning programs. The school district would be solely responsible.

**HB 2239** combines parts of 29 tax reduction bills including:

* $250 tax credit for teachers purchasing school and classroom supplies
* Increasing general fund residential exemption from $20,000 to $40,000
* Exempting the 20-mill general fund mill levy from the requirements of the Revenue Neutral Rate.

On a final note, **SB 421** transfers $1.125 billion to KPERS to help pay down the unfunded liability. Payment would be made in 4 installments with the final one December 1, 2022. This will eliminate the interest on the previous long-term repayment plan.

This year’s mega bill is **Senate Sub for Sub for** **HB 2567**. It contains K-12 education finance and a number of policies.

Budget issues are:

* School districts keep all Federal Impact Aid and the state will make up the $13 - $17 million loss to the general fund. This directly impacts 23 school districts.
* Bond and interest state aid is amended as follows: USD 207 is removed from the calculation; State aid for the next poorest district is set at 51% rather than 75%; virtual students are removed from the calculation for Assessed Valuation per Pupil. The net effect is no change in state aid except for a reduction in aid for districts with virtual students.
* The majority of the Governor’s recommended budget is funded, including funding agreed to following the Gannon lawsuit. Other items included as recommended are CTE transportation. Board Certified Teachers. Mentor Teacher. Professional Development. $3 million to expand the Mental Health Intervention Team Pilot program
* $5 million is added for School Safety and Security grants.
* Special education will be funded at approximately 71% of excess costs. It will require $155.6 million to reach the required 92% of excess costs.
* The state will pay for the dyslexia coordinator, but KSDE is required to charge a per student fee to school districts to reimburse the state general fund.
* $100,000 for Communities in Schools, to be provided by KSDE from existing funds. (The Board already approved this with ESSER funds.)
* Increasing virtual school state aid from $5,000 per full-time student to $5,600, and part-time students from $1,700 to $2,800; again, from existing funds. Cost = $6.7 million
* Increases virtual state aid to $709 per credit earned for students age 19 or younger who have dropped out. Cost = $848,000 depending on student numbers.
* The delayed payment to school districts will be corrected in FY 2023 rather than FY 2022.
* KSDE will be required to create an RFP for a math supplemental virtual program (originally intended to be Math Nation). Districts with 50% or more of their students in grades 7, 8, and 10 scoring at Levels 1 or 2 will be required to use the program (283 districts last year). Payment for the program will be with $3 million in federal SPARK funding in year one, and $2 million in fees charged to school districts in year 2.

Policies in **HB 2567** include:

* The Every Child Can Read Act prescribes actions districts must take to move toward grade-level proficiency in reading by third grade. Districts are typically already implementing the practices listed but much more reporting is required.
* Requires school districts to adopt policies allowing students enrolled in grades 6-12 to earn course credits in alternative education programs (i.e. internship programs).
* School districts must allow part-time enrollment.
* School districts must accept transfers from out of district. Districts must adopt a policy on capacity in each classroom.
* Those students behind on credits at the time of enrollment in a virtual school would not be included in the graduation rate used for accreditation.
* Prohibits a virtual school from using a financial incentive to entice a student to enroll.
* Amends eligibility requirements for participation in the tax credit for low income students’ scholarship program for private schools to the age of seven years or younger (previously age six).
* Adds to the Requirements for school districts to conduct a needs assessment for each attendance center and the board must use it in approving the district budget. The needs assessment and state assessment documentation must be published on the district website and listed in the motion to adopt the budget. KSDE is developing a document to help districts meet this requirement.
* KSDE is required to provide a student-focused achievement summary report, based on student cohort groups by school district. The information will be published annually on the KSDE website by January 15 and provided to the governor and legislature. Personnel cost = $455,000.
* The last issue resolved was a compromise over allowing out of state students to participate in the Promise Act Scholarship program.