

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Resolution Endorsing the Work Ready Communities Initiative

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve a resolution endorsing the Work Ready Communities initiative?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky Work Ready Communities Steering Committee is seeking endorsements from various state and national organizations for a new program which certifies a county based on the quality of its workforce. This program seeks to transform the talent pool in Kentucky and more.

Every major survey of business and industry as well as every major economic development publication indicate that the presence of a skilled workforce is one of, if not the top deciding factor when a company decides to expand, relocate or open a new facility. The availability of talent ranks ahead of tax incentives, utility costs, infrastructure, and other traditional factors in almost every credible study.

Understanding this, the Kentucky Workforce Investment Board created a framework to give counties in the commonwealth the opportunity to use a common framework of criteria to prove and improve their workforce assets. Secretary of Education Joe Meyer has requested that the KBE approve the attached resolution endorsing the initiative.

Additionally, more information on the initiative explaining the specific criteria that must be met by communities is attached.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends approval of the resolution endorsing the Work Ready Communities initiative. This initiative complements and supports the college and career readiness efforts of the board and department.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Working as partners to ensure that students are college and career and ready will increase the success of Kentucky's students as well as improve the state's economic environment.

Contact Person:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Holliday". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "H".

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2012