

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Consideration to declare the Robertson County School District as “state-assisted”

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the recommendation by the Commissioner of Education to declare the Robertson County School District (Robertson) as a “state assisted” district, based upon the results of a management audit conducted in accordance with applicable state statutes and regulation?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205, if the commissioner determines that a management audit establishes an existing pattern of a significant lack of effectiveness and efficiency and state assistance or state management is necessary to correct the inefficiencies and ineffectiveness, the commissioner shall make a recommendation to declare the district "state assisted" or "state managed" before the Kentucky Board of Education in a hearing on the matter. If the local district agrees with the commissioner's recommendation to declare the district "state assisted" or "state managed" and the district waives the right to participate in a hearing before the KBE, the commissioner shall place this recommendation before the board for approval without a hearing.

The department completed an onsite management audit of Robertson County on August 26 and 27, 2013. The management audit team prepared a draft management audit report for the commissioner based upon this work. On September 23, 2013, the commissioner notified the Robertson County Board of Education in writing that, based upon a review of the findings outlined in the report, he was going to recommend to the KBE that the Robertson County School District be declared a “state assisted” school district. A copy of the letter, the executive summary of the report, and the final management audit report are included as attachments to this staff note.

On September 25, 2013, the Robertson County Board of Education voted 4-0 to waive the right to a hearing before the state board and accept the commissioner`s recommendation to declare the district “state assisted”. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff has been notified of this action and the signed waiver is also an attachment to this staff note.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:

Pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205, the commissioner recommends that Robertson County become a “state assisted” district as a result of the existence of a pattern of inefficiency and ineffectiveness in multiple areas. As noted in the executive summary of the management audit report, the local board is supportive of improvement and wants to adequately address such concerns, but feels it needs some outside help to do so effectively. State management should still be considered if the local board fails to act promptly to improve governance and create a sense of urgency and responsiveness in the near future starting at the superintendent level.

If the KBE approves the commissioner’s recommendation and declares Robertson County a “state assisted district”, then pursuant to KRS 158.785(6), the commissioner, by and through the KDE, shall help the local district develop and implement a plan to correct the deficiencies identified in the management audit report.

KDE staff shall actively monitor compliance with this plan and provide regular status updates to the KBE. If the plan is not being adequately developed or implemented, the commissioner may bring a recommendation back to the KBE, in accordance with the appropriate process, to move forward with state management.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Pursuant to state law, the KDE shall establish a program for voluntary management improvement, for involuntary supervision, and for assuming full control of a local school district, in order to ensure that all school districts have the opportunity and capacity to reach proficiency.

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Commissioner of Education**Date:**

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