

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

District facility plan amendments: Ashland Independent, Bullitt County, Danville Independent and Jefferson County School Districts

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed amendments to the current District Facility Plans for the above listed Kentucky school districts?

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum) if the district applies for and is granted a waiver. This process provides a District Facility Plan (DFP) that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services). Local school districts are required to select a Local Planning Committee (LPC) to develop a DFP outlining capital construction priorities. During this cycle, a district may amend the DFP to reflect changes within the district.

Information reviewed in amending the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. Information for review is developed by the LPC and its consultants.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. If the local board does not approve the DFP, it goes back to the LPC for further refinement. However, the DFP submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the final decision of the local board of education and may or may not reflect the determinations of the LPC.

The submitted proposed amendments to the DFPs for Ashland Independent, Bullitt County, Danville Independent and Jefferson County School Districts were recommended by the LPCs and approved by the local boards of education. Attached with each district's facility plan and hearing report is enrollment projection data. Also, non-resident student data for the affected district is attached.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends the KBE approve the proposed amendments to the District Facility Plans for the Ashland Independent, Bullitt County, Danville Independent and Jefferson County School Districts. The plans were developed in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180. KDE staff certifies that all requested actions are justified, meet the intent to provide upgraded facilities, and are in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement, it is noted that the school's physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses

Public forums and a local public hearing were held in the each school district. The plans were approved by the required bodies by majority vote.

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Commissioner of Education**Date:**

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