

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board Appointment

Date: August 7, 2025

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To act on the proposed candidate to maintain current membership on the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends Carla Ruschival be appointed to the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. Ruschival meets the necessary criteria for appointment.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

[KRS 156.070](#); [KRS 167.015](#); [KRS 167.035](#)

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 156.070 details the general powers and duties of the state board, including management of the two state schools: "The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services." KRS 167.015 also provides that: "The Kentucky School for the Blind at Louisville, Kentucky, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf at Danville, Kentucky, shall be managed and controlled by the Kentucky Board of Education."

KRS 167.035 states that a KSB Advisory Board may be established. The advisory board is composed of five members appointed by the KBE upon recommendation by the chief state school officer for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed. The advisory board elects from its membership a chair. The purpose of the board is to act in an advisory capacity to assist leadership in conducting the activities of the school.

In an effort to include relevant communities on the KSB Advisory Board, the board's bylaws require the following groups be represented:

1. Parent of a currently enrolled student;
2. A representative of a community business partner engaged with the KSB
3. An alumnus;
4. A local school district or representative from a Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (formerly called Regional Special Education Cooperatives); and
5. At-large member from a group or agency that has a service mission and interest in the education of students who are blind or visually impaired.

Summary of Issue:

Carla Ruschival is recommended to fill the alumnus vacancy. She brings a lifetime of dedication, experience, and advocacy to her role on the KSB Advisory Board. A 1965 KSB graduate and second-generation alumna, Ruschival holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Louisville and has over five decades of leadership and service in organizations supporting individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Her professional background spans education, vocational rehabilitation, and homeschooling, including teaching students with dual sensory impairments. As a long-time volunteer and officer with the Kentucky Council of the Blind, American Council of the Blind, and numerous related groups, Ruschival has been a strong voice for accessible education, community engagement, and policy development. Her deep family connection to KSB underscores her commitment to preserving and enhancing the school's role in the Commonwealth's continuum of services for blind and low vision students.

Budget Impact:


Pursuant to KRS 167.035, members of the board serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The Office of Special Education and Early Learning advertised the vacancy through multiple outlets.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Commissioner of Education

Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Educator Workforce Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Racial Equity Commitment <input type="checkbox"/> Student-Centered Accountability System <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Support
