

Dr. Holliday's Superintendent Update – March 18, 2013

Graduation Bill Signed

This afternoon Governor Beshear signed [Senate Bill 97](#), the graduation bill, allowing districts to raise the compulsory school age to 18. The Governor said signing the bill is one of the most satisfying acts he's had as Governor and that the bill represents real progress for Kentucky. Raising the compulsory school attendance age to 18 has been the Kentucky Board of Education's number one priority for several years.

I encourage districts to review the bill and strongly consider moving forward with plans to adopt this policy as soon as it takes effect (90 days after adjournment of the session), so they could implement the compulsory school age of 18 in the 2015-16 school year. As you may be aware, once 55 percent of the districts adopt, it will become mandatory for all districts in the school year that occurs four years after the 55 percent threshold is met.

Several districts have expressed a concern that until all districts implement the age 18 dropout age, students may try to "jump districts" to avoid it. The bill prohibits this and says all children residing in the district shall be subject to the local board's compulsory age policy, even if the district has entered a non-resident contract to permit some students to attend school in another public district that has not adopted the higher compulsory school age.

I will be reaching out to districts to work with them on any issues they may have on moving forward with adoption of this important legislation.