

***Resolution Urging Local Boards of Education to be Early Adopters of a Policy to Raise the Compulsory School Attendance Age to 18
by the
Kentucky Board of Education***

- Whereas,*** In the past, students were permitted by state law to drop out of school at the age of 16, thus severely diminishing their opportunities for success in life either in postsecondary education or a career; and
- Whereas,*** During the 2013 legislative session, outstanding collaboration occurred between Governor Steven L. Beshear, First Lady Jane Beshear, the General Assembly, Commissioner Terry Holliday, Kentucky Board of Education, and other education partners resulting in the adoption of Senate Bill 97 so that the compulsory school attendance age will be raised to 18 in the 2015-16 school year for those districts whose local boards of education enact such a policy; and
- Whereas,*** Local boards of education can begin adopting such a policy on the “first moment of June 25, 2013” or thereafter that contains an effective date of 2015-16; and
- Whereas,*** The early adoption of such a policy will give districts the ability to give notice to rising freshmen of this important change and give school and district staffs time to plan for its successful implementation; and
- Whereas,*** The quicker that 55 percent of Kentucky districts adopt these policies, then the sooner that all districts must adopt a policy, within four years of when the 55 percent is reached, and ensure that the interventions and programs are put in place to meet students’ needs in order for them to persist to graduation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kentucky Board of Education urges local boards of education to be courageous, early adopters of a policy to raise the compulsory school attendance age to 18, effective in the 2015-16 school year, in order to send a strong message that completing high school is essential to ensuring that every student graduates college- and career-ready.

Done in the city of Frankfort, this tenth day of April, in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen.

***David Karem, Chair
Kentucky Board of Education***

***Terry Holliday, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education***