

## **RAISING THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGE IN KENTUCKY**

In its 2013 Regular Session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 97, which raises the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18. Adoption of this policy is voluntary until 55 percent (or 96) of school districts adopt the policy, then the statute mandates that the remaining districts must adopt and implement the policy within two years.

The Kentucky Board of Education adopted a resolution encouraging districts to be early adopters of a policy to raise the compulsory attendance age to 18 at its meeting on April 10, 2013.

Currently, planning and implementation grants in the amount of \$10,000 are being made available to Kentucky school districts adopting a conforming policy during the 2013-14 school year. There are six steps required to receive the grant:

**1. PASSAGE** – A local school board must pass a district-wide policy to raise the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 with implementation beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

**2. VERIFICATION** - Districts must verify the passage of the policy on or after June 26, 2013. Policy and signature pages must be uploaded into ASSIST along with the minutes showing adoption of the policy. (A how-to guide is available at: <http://education.ky.gov/school/Documents/SB%2097%20ASSIST%20Instructions%20-%20Grant%20Application.pdf>.)

**3. ASSURANCE** - Districts must provide an electronic signature through ASSIST validating the implementation of the policy.

**4. REQUEST** - Districts must submit a grant request by e-mail to the commissioner at [SB97@education.ky.gov](mailto:SB97@education.ky.gov). The body of the e-mail must state that steps 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.

**5. REVIEW** – Submissions will be reviewed by a KDE review team for certification in accordance with SB 97 Section 1 (b) 4.

**6. NOTIFICATION** - Grant recipients will be notified beginning after July 1, 2013. Notifications will be sent and the list updated weekly thereafter.

More information is available on the Kentucky Department of Education website at: <http://education.ky.gov/school/Pages/CompAttend.aspx>.