**THIS IS A DECISION PAPER**

**TO: Members of the Hardin County Board of Education**

**FROM: Nannette Johnston, Superintendent**

**DATE: June 25, 2013**

**TOPIC: Compulsory Attendance Change**

**DISCUSSION:**

The 2013 General Assembly amended KRS. 159.010 to allow districts to set the dropout age at 18 effective with the 2015-16 school year. Stipulations to the bill require that once a school district chooses to adopt the “new” dropout age, the district will have to contact the Kentucky Department of Education and certify that they have programs in place to meet the needs of potential dropouts. This change is not required by law at this time; however, once 55% of all school boards adopt such a policy, all districts must comply within 4 years.

It would be in the best interest of the students and parents of Hardin County to adopt this policy as soon as possible in “Helping all Children to Succeed”. Hardin County currently provides a “dropout” prevention program through Hardin County High School, the use of E-School and Apex, at both Hardin County High and our local high schools, and we utilize a “dropout prevention” coordinator, Robert King, principal at Brown St. Alternative School, who contacts the local high school principal to identify and target “potential” dropout students.

The Student Service Department would also like to create an added “dropout” prevention measure by utilizing staff to make “home visits” to students who are targeted as “potential” dropouts to notify the student and parents of the options available to them to avoid being a dropout. The goal will be that by the end of the 2016-17 school year Hardin County School District has zero dropouts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend that the Hardin County Board of Education amend Policy 9.11 (Transfers and Withdrawals) and Policy 9.122 (Attendance Requirements) to allow the district to set the dropout age at 18 effective with the 2015-16 school year according to KRS. 159.010.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

I move that the Hardin County Board of Education amend Policy 9.11 (Transfers and Withdrawals) and Policy 9.122 (Attendance Requirements) to allow the district to set the dropout age at 18 effective with the 2015-16 school year according to KRS. 159.010.