

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

702 KAR 1:115, Annual in-service training of district board members (Second Reading)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 160.180

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the revisions to 702 KAR 1:115?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. KRS 160.180 requires local school board members to receive annual in-service training based on their number of years of experience. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) determines the criteria for fulfilling such requirements. This administrative regulation establishes standards for the annual in-service training of local school board members.

The majority of local boards of education do an excellent job with providing appropriate oversight of local school districts in an informed manner. While there have been isolated instances of financial mismanagement in several school districts, the overall purpose of these changes is to help all school board members engage in positive growth and become better informed about certain critical areas. The proposed changes initially added mandatory requirements for annual training in ethics and school finance and also allowed for participants to evaluate and provide feedback on training each year.

In addition, several revisions have been made since the first reading of the regulation in April 2013, in response to feedback from the KBE, the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC), and the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA). These changes include:

- Addition of a mandatory requirement for training on superintendent evaluation. This training shall be required annually for local school board members with zero to seven years of experience and biennially for board members with eight years or more of experience.
- Clarification that certain types of activities are ineligible for credit as in-service training. This includes the regular work of a local board; activities which are

irrelevant for the pertinent knowledge and skills for board membership; or other activities relating to public relations and social activities. This clarification makes the revised regulation consistent with current guidance from KSBA to local boards.

- Clarification that courses shall be submitted by providers to the Kentucky Department of Education for approval.
- Several stylistic and formatting changes in order to improve the logic and flow of the regulation.

After these revisions, the mandatory training requirements for training are broken down as follows:

Experience Level	Current Annual Requirement	Proposed Ethics Training Requirement	Proposed School Finance Training Requirement	Proposed Superintendent Evaluation Training Requirement
0 – 3 years	12 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 3 hours annually	Minimum 1 hour annually
4 – 7 years	8 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 2 hours annually	Minimum 1 hour annually
8 years or more	4 hours	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 1 hour annually	Minimum 1 hour biennially

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends approval of 702 KAR 1:115 based upon the changes outlined above. These changes will strengthen local board members’ knowledge of ethics, school finance and the superintendent evaluation process.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)
 Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA)

The groups are supportive of the changes in the regulation. LSAC will provide a letter to the board indicating its comments by the August meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The approval of this regulation will increase the school boards’ efficacy in the areas of ethics, school finance and superintendent evaluation, which should result in better management of school districts.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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