

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Substance Abuse and Coordinated School Health Update

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 160.345, KRS 158.856, KRS 158.6455

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Screening to identify students at risk for school failure or psychological or behavioral problems is increasingly recognized as an important professional practice. Both the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education and the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act have strongly endorsed this approach. The Coordinated School Health (CSH) efforts in Kentucky are focused on connecting processes for local school district requirements for the Program Review in Practical Living/Career Studies and the new requirements of the federal Healthy Hunger Free Kid Act on wellness policies. By increasing district CSH capacities through providing technical assistance, professional learning opportunities and resources with the federal funding awarded to the Kentucky Department for Public Health, student achievement can be impacted in a positive way.

Substance Abuse Initiative. In January 2014, Attorney General Jack Conway announced legal settlements with two pharmaceutical companies totaling \$32 million. Through the efforts of Governor Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear, the funds will be used to expand substance abuse treatment throughout Commonwealth, including \$1 million for the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) to implement a school-based substance abuse screening tool developed in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The tool will be used to intervene with at-risk youth before they enter judicial or social services systems. Heather Dearing from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and Jamie Sparks, the department's School Health and Physical Education Director, will update the board on this work. The press release announcing this grant can be found at:

<http://migration.kentucky.gov/Newsroom/ag/drugaddictiontreatment.htm>

Coordinated School Health Update. In January 2014, Governor Steve Beshear announced the Commonwealth had received a federal grant to help Kentuckians reduce the most serious risk factors leading to obesity and chronic disease. The funding will be used to promote improved physical activity and nutrition, reduce obesity and prevent and control diabetes, heart disease and stroke with a focus on high blood pressure. Dr. Connie White (Deputy Commissioner) and Victoria Greenwell (Coordinated School

Health Administrator) from the Department for Public Health along with the department's Jamie Sparks will update the board on their collaborative work on coordinated school health. The press release announcing this grant can be found at: <http://migration.kentucky.gov/Newsroom/governor/20140106grant.htm>

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Academic success is an excellent indicator for the overall well-being of youth and a primary predictor and determinant of adult health outcomes. Leading national education organizations recognize the relationship between health and education, as well as the need to embed health into the educational environment for all students.

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Commissioner of Education

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