

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

*New District Facility Plan:* Hickman County School District

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed District Facility Plan (DFP) for the above listed Kentucky school district?

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum) if the district applies for and is granted a waiver. This process provides a DFP that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services). Local school districts are required to select a Local Planning Committee (LPC) to develop a DFP outlining capital construction priorities.

Information reviewed in developing the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. KDE staff presents the process to be undertaken by the district in an orientation session. Information for review is then developed by the LPC and its consultants.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. If the local board does not approve the DFP, it goes back to the LPC for further refinement. However, the DFPs submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) are the final decision of the local boards of education and may or may not reflect the determinations of the LPC.

The submitted DFP for the Hickman County School District is recommended by the LPC and approved by the local board of education. Attached with the district's facility plan and hearing report is enrollment projection data. Also, non-resident student data for the affected district is attached.

### **Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:**

Staff recommends that the KBE approve the proposed new District Facility Plan for the

Hickman County School District. KDE staff certifies that the plan presented is in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180 and is in compliance with the appropriate steps as follows: (1) LPC selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plan for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public meetings and forums notification through news media; (4) local public hearing conducted with appointed hearing officer; and (5) plan submitted for KBE approval.

### **Impact on Getting to Proficiency**

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement it is noted that the school's physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

### **Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses**

Public forums and a local public hearing were held in the school district. The plan was approved by the required bodies by majority vote.

### **Contact Person:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

### **Date:**

April 2014