

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

The Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky Update

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In October 2012, The Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky (The Fund), an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit, was incorporated. The foundation became fully operational in April 2013. The Fund work closely with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and other partners to serve as an outside agent of change to recruit resources and expertise to support teachers, schools and districts committed to this necessary transformation and to fulfill its mission and vision as follows:

Mission

The Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky (The Fund) recruits, coordinates and supports expertise and resources to inspire and scale innovation and excellence in Kentucky's public schools, resulting in a better future for all of our children.

Vision

Kentucky's public education system will be "transformed" in such a way that we will have effective leaders in every school, effective educators in every classroom, and thoroughly engaged parents, resulting in our high school graduates consistently ranking among the best in the nation in terms of college and career readiness.

Recent Activities

The Fund recently began to ramp up major initiatives that will serve as a catalyst for major transformation in Kentucky schools. Among the many activities that have taken place relative to this entity has been the hiring of Barbara Bellissimo as the Executive Director of The Fund. Under Barbara's leadership The Fund has started major fund raising efforts and developed a strategic plan anchored by the launch of The Innovation Fund as described below.

The Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund will support grant making to teachers, school leaders, and administrators to encourage the investigation, testing and scaling of innovative practices.

The Innovation Fund will include three tiers of support:

Research grants: *the smallest in size, these grants will support research and investigation of innovative tools and practices that the grantee may want to move into a pilot stage.*

Pilot grants: *small to mid-size grants that would allow the grantee to test innovative tools and practices.*

Scaling grants: *the largest and most infrequent grant awards, these grants will support the scaling of innovative tools and/or practices.*

June Meeting Update

Executive Director Bellissimo will be present at the June 4 Kentucky Board of Education meeting to provide an update on the work of The Fund.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Transforming our public schools in order to accelerate the move to proficiency is an effort that will take the contribution of every stakeholder group in the Commonwealth. The Fund stands ready to mobilize key stakeholders and philanthropy partners to resource and support this transformation.

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