

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

705 KAR 4:250, Energy Technology Engineering Career Pathway (First Reading)

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

KRS 158.808, Energy Technology Career Track Program

#### **History/Background:**

*Existing Policy.* In 2007, the Kentucky legislature enacted KRS 158.808, which required the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to establish an energy technology career track program. The purpose was to provide grants to school districts to develop and implement such programs across middle and high schools. The total annual funding allocation is approximately \$275,000, with the number of grants and award amounts being determined by KDE.

From this statute, 705 KAR 4:250 was promulgated and became effective in April 2008, which established a process for the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to administer such pathways and programs, approve grant recipients, and distribute funds to local districts. In its original form, this regulation included language that allowed for districts to request funding for one specific curriculum vendor, known as Project Lead the Way (PLTW). While KDE values its long-standing collaborative partnership with University of Kentucky PLTW affiliate, there now exist multiple programs that may be eligible to provide curriculum.

The proposed revisions to this regulation are meant to ensure that all school districts desiring such pathways have the same access and opportunity to apply for these implementation and sustainability funds, regardless of what program or vendor they choose. As STEM and energy-related initiatives continue to grow in popularity and demand, it is also recognized that new and emerging curriculums could be developed in the future. These revisions ensure that the language within the regulation is broad enough to take all of these factors into consideration.

The August KBE meeting will be the first reading of this revised regulation; therefore, it is a review item and will come back for approval in October.

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

Energy and Technology Engineering pathways provide an opportunity for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students to demonstrate college and career readiness, which is aligned to the goals of SB 1 (2009) and SB 38 (2012).

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

Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)  
University of Kentucky PLTW Affiliate  
Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Nationals  
Kentucky's Energy Education Task Force  
Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)

LSAC will discuss the draft regulation at its July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and staff will report the comments to the board at the August meeting. The input from all other groups listed above was received and accommodated either through changes to the regulation or discussion with the groups. The groups are generally supportive of the regulation changes.

**Contact Person:**

Dale Winkler, Ed.D.  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Career and Technical Education  
502-564-4286  
[Dale.winkler@education.ky.gov](mailto:Dale.winkler@education.ky.gov)



---

**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

August 2014