

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Approval of the Final Order from the Breathitt County Hearing and Status Update on the School District's State Management

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the written final order from the August 26, 2014 hearing?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. On December 5, 2012, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved the Breathitt County School District as being designated a state managed district. Additionally, the KBE conducted a day-long hearing on August 26, 2014 to determine whether state management of the Breathitt County School District should continue. At the conclusion of the hearing, the KBE unanimously voted to continue state management for three (3) years.

At the October board meeting, the KBE will be asked to approve the written final order from the Hearing Officer regarding the continuation of state management.

In addition, other updates include:

- The district has begun a 6th grade academy with 40 students (higher expectations as well as improving gifted opportunities).
- The Next Generation Academy at Breathitt County High School has begun with 16 students in cooperation with Hazard Community and Technical College System (HCTCS) and Morehead State University (students will be able to graduate with an associate degree from Morehead State University).
- Efforts toward a 1:1 ratio for technology devices within the District have begun.
- Improved communication with the ATC has occurred (new principal attends district principals' meetings).
- Breathitt Residential Treatment Center principal has been assigned to work with A6 Schools on the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System.
- Facility needs have been shared to include Performance Contracting possibilities and the Nickel tax.
- Ongoing monitoring and support is occurring for school-based decision making efforts with Marie Roberts Elementary in selecting a principal.
- A joint update to the state board from the state manager and local board chair will occur in December.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends approval of the written final order regarding the continuation of state management in the Breathitt County School District. The order reflects the board's decision that was rendered on August 26.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

State management is necessary to support the district's continuous improvement efforts.

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Date:

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