

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

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

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.808, Energy Technology Career Track Program

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed amendments to 705 KAR 4:250?

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 \$175,000, with the number of grants and award amounts being determined by KDE.

From this statute, 705 KAR 4:250 became effective in April 2008, which established a process for 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, Project Lead the Way (PLTW). While KDE values its long-standing collaborative partnership with PLTW, multiple programs now exist that may be eligible to provide curriculum.

The proposed revisions to this regulation are meant to ensure that all school districts wishing to have such pathways have the same access and opportunity to apply for these implementation and sustainability funds, regardless of the program or vendor they choose. As STEM and energy-related initiatives continue to grow in popularity and demand, it also is 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.

Changes to the regulation since its First Reading include:

- Technical edits to meet regulation drafting requirements.

- Section 1 – Definition of a “career pathway” was changed to simply reference the definition within KRS 158.810.
- Section 2, 4(a) – “Governor’s Office of Energy Policy” was removed (no longer in existence) and replaced with appropriate department title.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends that the KBE approve amendments to 705 KAR 4:250. The KBE should consider these revisions as necessary, in order to ensure fairness and equity to all programs and vendors. By broadening the field of eligible programs for this grant funding, school districts are being permitted to make decisions about program offerings that align with the best interest of their students, as well as local workforce demands.

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:

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

The groups are supportive of the revisions. LSAC will provide a letter to the board expressing its input prior to the October meeting.

Contact Person:

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Commissioner of Education

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