

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Waiver Request from Jefferson County Public Schools for 704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6453 and 704 KAR 3:303

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education grant the Jefferson County Public Schools' request for a waiver of 704 KAR 3:303?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. 704 KAR 3:303 is the administrative regulation, promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education, that explains all schools will follow the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. 704 KAR 3:303 incorporates those standards by reference. The Kentucky Core Academic Standards, among other provisions, describe the grade level at which each standard is taught.

The Jefferson County Public Schools, under their approved District of Innovation plan, conducted an open “competition” to select a new school of innovation model. Under the approved plan, the winning model would be implemented in the district beginning in 2015-16. The winning model was a Waldorf-inspired Catalpa Program at Maupin Elementary School. The Catalpa Program will be a district-wide magnet program, and also serve students in Elementary School Cluster 13. Maupin Elementary School will serve pre-K to grade five for the 2015-16 school year, adding a grade each subsequent year and ultimately serve pre-K to grade 8. The school enrollment will comply with the district's diversity guideline, reflecting the demographics of the student population within the cluster and within the district.

Maupin Elementary will, as described in the Catalpa Program School of Innovation proposal, “ensure that the Kentucky Core Academic Standards "are taught with intention and fidelity, without compromising the developmental basis of the Waldorf curriculum.” All content standards will be taught within the designated grade spans outlined in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (K-5 and 6-8), but, under the waiver requested here, at different grade levels than set forth in the Kentucky Core Academic Standards document.

Specifically, this waiver request would permit a deviation from the grade-level timeline for instruction of the content standards in 704 KAR 3:303, and follow a curriculum timeline created by the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education in conjunction with the Alice Birney School in Sacramento, California.

Families will complete forms upon the enrollment of their students in Maupin Elementary School. First, a family will acknowledge, in writing, understanding that the child will take state summative assessments on the state assessment cycle and may not have received instruction in some content at the time of assessment. Second, a family will acknowledge, in writing, the understanding that if the child enters Maupin Elementary School and then chooses to transfer to another district school or another school district in Kentucky, the child is likely to have missed specific pieces of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards because those standards will not have been taught at the grade level specified within the Kentucky Core Academic Standards document.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends approval of this waiver. This waiver is the district's first large-scale use of the District of Innovation status to implement innovative school models designed to close achievement gaps and increase proficiency. By allowing implementation of this model, the district can potentially address these issues for underserved populations.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Allowing innovative approaches to address differing needs of students leads to student success.

Contact Person:

David Cook, Director
Division of Innovation and Partner Engagement
(502) 564-4201, ext. 4832
David.cook@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2015