

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**STAFF NOTE**

**Review Item:**

Status report on Districts of Innovation: Eminence Independent, Jefferson County, and Taylor County

**Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.108, KRS 160.107 and 701 KAR 5:140

**History/Background:**

*Existing Policy.* KRS 156.108(4) requires the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations that implement KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107 (the Districts of Innovation statutes.)

701 KAR 5:140(4) describes the process for monitoring the implementation of each District of Innovation plan:

- (1) District and school innovation plans shall:
  - (a) Be incorporated within the overall district comprehensive plan; or
  - (b) Replace the district comprehensive plan.
- (2) At the completion of the second year after plan approval and each year thereafter for the term of the approval status, a district approved as a District of Innovation shall annually provide data to the commissioner that shall include the following:
  - (a) Number of students served by the innovation plan, total number and by socio-economic status, race or ethnicity, gender, disability, and grade level;
  - (b) Number of students served by the innovation plan not on track to graduate from high school, total number and by socio-economic status, race or ethnicity, gender, disability, and grade level;
  - (c) Documentation of student progress toward graduation and college and career readiness;
  - (d) Total number of certified teachers participating in the innovation plan and their roles and responsibilities;
  - (e) Documentation of certified and classified staff operating in a non-traditional school environment;
  - (f) Documentation of any extended learning opportunities in which students in the school of innovation participate for the purposes of earning or recovering credit, including qualifications of instructors, time spent, and student outcomes; and
  - (g) Other measurable outcomes specific to the district's innovation plan as described in the initial application or through modification of the original plan.

(3) At the end of the second year after plan approval and each year thereafter for the term of the approval status, a district approved as a District of Innovation shall receive an annual site visit from a review team selected and trained by the department. The purpose of the visit shall be to monitor progress and interview staff and students to collect qualitative data on the effect of the innovation plan and for future research needs.

During the spring of 2015, staff at KDE collected documentation of implementation of the innovation plans from each of the four districts in their second year (Danville Independent, Eminence Independent, Jefferson County, and Taylor County). In addition, each district received a site visit and interviews were conducted with teachers, building principals, and district administrators. From this information, status reports were created for each district. The status reports for Eminence, Jefferson and Taylor appear as attachments to this staff note on the board's online materials system. Danville Independent requires action by the board and is dealt with in a separate staff note that also is posted on the board's online materials system.

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

The purpose of the District of Innovation legislation was to create opportunities for flexibilities from certain statutes and administrative regulations to create new approaches to teaching and learning that would improve college and career readiness.

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

Stakeholder groups were interviewed during the official site visit for each district. See the attached reports.

### **Contact Person:**

David Cook, Director  
Division of Innovation and Partner Engagement  
(502) 564-4201  
[david.cook@education.ky.gov](mailto:david.cook@education.ky.gov)



Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Next Generation Schools & Districts  
(502) 564-5130  
[Kelly.foster@education.ky.gov](mailto:Kelly.foster@education.ky.gov)

---

**Commissioner of Education**

### **Date:**

July 10, 2015