

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

History/Background:

Existing Policy.

- ✓ The Fleming County School District (Fleming) and the Robertson County School District (Robertson) have been designated for state assistance by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for more than a year.
- ✓ At the December 2014 board meeting, the Menifee County School District (Menifee) was designated for state assistance by the KBE.
- ✓ At the February 2015 board meeting, the Caverna Independent School District (Caverna) was designated for state assistance by the KBE.

Fleming County School District - The district and Fleming County High School both had diagnostic reviews in March. The district went from 25 improvement priorities last year to seven this year. None of the improvement priorities were in the area of finance. However, the district did not regain capacity because it did not provide evidence of the district's efforts to support the turnaround at the high school. There are multiple administrative openings in the district, including principal and assistant principal at the high school and principal at Ewing Elementary. The district also has posted a Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Specialist position at the high school. District leadership and KDE education recovery staff are meeting weekly to develop plans on how the district and education recovery staff will work collaboratively to support the turnaround efforts at the high school.

Robertson County School District - The superintendent search process is on schedule and a new superintendent should be named before the current superintendent leaves on June 30. The board member most recently appointed by the commissioner has resigned because he has decided to apply for the superintendent position. An internal review of teaching and learning was conducted in the district at the end of April. The improvement priorities from the review will be used to help guide future development of PDSAs and 30/60/90-Day plans. Although there has been significant progress over the past few months, concern remains regarding declining enrollment and the district's ability to provide adequate services to meet the needs of all students with its current resources.

Menifee County School District - Julia Rawlings, KDE Education Recovery Director, has been working hard to assist district leadership in development of multiple PDSAs to correct the deficiencies found in the management audit. A substantial need exists for KDE support in the areas of finance, governance and instruction. Board meetings are not effective and there is a

perception the proceedings are not transparent. KDE recovery staff recently conducted an internal review of teaching and learning at all schools. Overall, the teaching and learning review indicates a strong need for major changes at all three schools as validated by both the indicator ratings and observation ratings.

Caverna Independent School District - KDE education recovery staff has been supporting the district on a daily basis. The district continues to provide working sessions with the board to review the Management Audit and the PDSAs developed from the audit. Superintendent Faulkner and the board have been very cooperative and excited about the opportunity to collaborate with KDE to create systems of continuous improvement to move the district forward. The district has posted two central office positions (DPP and Instructional Supervisor). Multiple committees are meeting in the district and end-of-year activities are on schedule. The district also is working on several facilities improvements that were noted in the management audit. KDE staff is providing support in teaching and learning to individual schools based on need.

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Commissioner of Education

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