

**Application of Waiver of Administrative Regulations
Kentucky Board of Education**

As superintendent of the McCracken school district, I am requesting a waiver under KRS 156.160(2)(a) of the following Kentucky Administrative Regulation(s) promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education. The waiver(s) is requested in order to remove barriers that exist to implementing certain strategies in our district designed to improve learning. These waiver requests were reviewed and approved at a meeting of the McCracken County Board of Education on June 18, 2015. The approval is contained in the board minutes that are available for review at the district's central office. The original copy of this request is also available at the district's central office.

Superintendent Signature

Date

Quin T. Sutton

Print Name of Primary Point of Contact

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Point of Contact Phone and E-mail

Waivers are requested for the following Kentucky Administrative Regulations. **Please note: The Kentucky Board of Education can only review requests for waiver under the following "Titles" of the Kentucky Administrative regulations: 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 707. You cannot request a waiver for any regulation that relates to: health and safety; civil rights; federal law; and regulations related to state assessment and accountability. You may access the regulations at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/titles.htm>.**

Please include the numerical reference and description of the regulation:

1. 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Please describe the justification for your waiver request. Please include the specific language that you wish to have relief from and what your expected outcome is. Also, include your plan to measure the effectiveness of the initiative you propose. Please reference the administrative regulation in your response and complete a separate text box for each regulation for which you are requesting a waiver.

1.

McCracken County Schools
Request of Waiver to 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9

McCracken County Schools is requesting a waiver to 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9 pursuant to our conversations with KDE and as permitted by KRS 156.160, Section 2, Subsections a-c.

McCracken County was awarded \$58,036 for Gifted and Talented Education for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. 704 KAR 3:285, Section 9 requires that districts use 75% of GT awards to fund certified GT personnel in the district. In an attempt to provide quality service by GT certified personnel to our 1,344 identified students, we have tried a number of different options over the past several years. During the 2014-2015 school year, McCracken County allocated 100% of the GT award directly to school councils for direct services to students by GT certified personnel.

For the 2015-2016 school year we would like to have other options on spending our GT money that do not require us to spend this money on personnel, but that will give us the freedom to provide GT services in other ways. This is the basis of our waiver.

We believe that using the entire \$58,036 on students will allow us to better meet the needs of our GT students. Our rural location prohibits many students from access to museums, art galleries, plays, science exhibits, and the like. Even if these programs were available, our 44% Free and 6% Reduced Lunch numbers for the district would limit parents' financial ability to access those opportunities. Allowing our schools the opportunity to use the entire GT award toward experiences relevant to individual student need will have a more profound effect on the GT students in our district than a personnel allocation. We foresee using the entire award not only to take our students outside the district, but also to bring in quality presentations geared toward meeting the specific needs of all our GT students. The requirement of 75% of the GT award for GT certified personnel has prevented us from providing quality services by talented artists to our gifted Dance, Drama, Visual Art, or Music students. Again, we believe using the entire grant to support students rather than personnel is the best use of these funds.

The district could very easily use 75% of the \$58,036 of our award to partially fund a district-wide teacher with GT certification. However, when you look at the number of identified students as well as the diverse needs of these students in a K-12 perspective, the quantity and quality of services that are provided becomes very limited. If granted, McCracken County would continue to allocate 100% of the GT award directly to the schools. However, School Councils would have flexibility in providing high quality opportunities to their specific identified population. We hope the Kentucky Board of Education will see that this waiver is a request made in the best interest of the GT students of McCracken County Schools. If this waiver is granted, our schools would have the freedom to use 100% of our GT award to meet the needs of their gifted students using existing personnel and providing many more opportunities than previously allowed.