

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

705 KAR 2:140, Equalization of funding for locally-operated area vocational centers and vocational departments (*First Reading*)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.069

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 157.069, established in 2001, allocates funds from the General Assembly for Kentucky's locally-operated Career and Technical Education (CTE) Centers and CTE departments. The current line item from the biennial budget is approximately \$11.8 million annually. Kentucky Administrative Regulation 705 KAR 2:140 reinforces the weighted funding formula and establishes the process for distribution of appropriated funds to all eligible schools.

The proposed amendments to this regulation center on the urgency for the local districts to have a final budget allocation by June 30th of every year (prior to the start of the school year). This has been a request by many eligible districts for several years. KDE has not historically given them a final allocation until January of each year, which prohibits them from being able to budget and spend accordingly. It also is being proposed that the list of CTE programs, categorized by funding level, be incorporated by reference into the regulation.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Adequate and equitable funding for the locally-operated Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers is critical for successful implementation of those programs. CTE funding supports essential requirements, such as the purchase and maintenance of 21st century equipment and technology, student assessment and technical skill attainment needs, and professional learning. Without such support, CTE students within the locally-operated centers are less likely to demonstrate college and career readiness, which is aligned to the goals of SB 1 (2009) and SB 38 (2012).

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

CTE State Advisory Committee
Kentucky Department of Education (Office of Career and Technical Education and Office of Guiding Support Services Staff)
Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)

The first two groups have responded positively to the proposed changes and are supportive of the amendments to 705 KAR 2:140. KDE staff will report LSAC's comments at the October meeting.

It should be noted that several members of the CTE State Advisory Committee did propose that the weighted funding formula itself should be reconsidered at a later date (to include additional factors, such as performance-based criteria); however, this would require a statutory change to KRS 157.069.

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