

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Status Report on Danville Independent School District's Probation as District of Innovation

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.108 and 701 KAR 5:140

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 156.108(2) states: "The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to approve districts of innovation for the purposes of improving students' educational performance. Districts of innovation shall be provided flexibility from selected Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Kentucky Revised Statutes, and local board of education policies for school administrators, teachers, and staff to meet the diverse needs of students. The initial approval of a district of innovation shall be for a five-year period. Each renewal of a district of innovation shall not exceed five (5) years and shall comply with administrative regulations promulgated by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section."

701 KAR 5:140(5)(1) provides the Kentucky Board of Education the authority to place a District of Innovation on probation based on the documentation submitted and the site visit: "After its annual review of a district's implementation report and the report of the site visit team, the Kentucky Board of Education may, on the anniversary of the application approval, determine that a district shall be placed on probation and shall provide the district with a corrective action plan."

During the initial year of implementation of the District of Innovation plan (2013-2014), the Danville Independent Schools made adequate progress on its plan. During the 2014-2015 school year, there was little evidence that the plan had been the focus of the district and several specific elements of the plan had not been followed as directed by the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the district. At the August 2015 meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), the KBE placed Danville Independent Schools on probation per 701 KAR 5:140.

Summary: Monitoring of the Danville plan has been hindered in 2015-2016 because the district has sought to make significant changes to the approved innovation plan and negotiations on those changes have been ongoing.

Under the terms of the corrective action plan approved by the KBE at its August 2015 meeting, KDE would conduct quarterly monitoring visits and provide the KBE with a status report at its February 2016 meeting.

KDE staff will conduct a comprehensive monitoring visit on January 28-29, 2016. KDE staff will be interviewing staff at each school, the Innovation Leadership Team, superintendent, and local board of education. Details of the visit will be shared at the February meeting.

In addition to concerns about the implementation of the approved plan, Danville Independent School District has been designated as a Focus District pursuant to 703 KAR 5:225. Staff believes this status is making it difficult for the district to follow through with its District of Innovation plan while it seeks to develop its strategies to improve achievement overall and close achievement gaps.

Budget Impact: No impact on state funds occurs.

Contact Person:

Kelly Foster
Associate Commissioner
Office of Next Generation Schools and Districts
kelly.foster@education.ky.gov

David Cook, Director
Director, Innovation and Partner
Engagement
david.cook@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

February 2016