

Corbin Independent waiver requests:

1. Waiver of minimum school term to create flexibility for the school calendar to be year-round, with various configurations of days and hours and minimum time worked to be equivalent to 170 instructional days and 1,062 instructional hour requirements. The district cited KRS 158.070 in this waiver request.

KDE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL to the extent permitted under KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107 and with terms to be established in the memorandum of understanding with the district.

2. Waiver of Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) certification restrictions on subject areas so current teachers can teach additional subjects in which there may not be an associated or recognized certificate offered through EPSB. The district cited 16 KAR 2:010, an EPSB regulation, in this waiver request.

KDE RECOMMENDS DENIAL BUT HAS INFORMATION ON COMMUNICATION WITH EPSB - KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107 do not grant the Kentucky Board of Education waiver authority over EPSB statutes and regulations. The Kentucky Board of Education is without authority to waive the EPSB certification requirements. As they did with the first groups of Districts of Innovation, EPSB will meet with district staff following the approval as a District of Innovation and address each certification request individually. This process was very successful in previous years, with the EPSB able to find solutions to the majority of the districts' requests. We anticipate the same result this year.

3. Waiver of state accountability to allow the use of alternative standardized assessments other than those designated in Kentucky for end-of-course (EOC) assessment. The district cited KRS 158.6453 and 158.860 in this waiver request.

KDE RECOMMENDS DENIAL IN PART AND APPROVAL IN PART to the extent permitted under KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107 and with terms to be established in the memorandum of understanding with the district - KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107 do not grant the Kentucky Board of Education waiver authority from the statewide assessment system requirements. KRS 160.107(2)(d) specifically requires "compliance with the statewide assessment system" requirements for District of Innovation districts. The Kentucky Board of Education cannot waive that requirement; however, should the General Assembly allow for waiver of this requirement, the Kentucky Board of Education shall be deemed to have granted that waiver upon the effective date of the legislation. Furthermore, if the district is interested in providing additional assessments, as measures of students' educational attainment for the purpose of comparing the results of the traditional statewide assessment system tools and the additional assessment system tools, the KDE would recommend approval of this request to add to the assessment protocols utilized in this district.