

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Status Update on Recommendations from the Combating Inappropriate Student-Teacher Relationship Task Force

Rationale:

To inform the board of recommendations developed by the task force for preventing inappropriate student-educator relationships.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 161.028

History/Background:

Existing Policy: The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) currently has statutes, regulations, policies and procedures in place detailing the processes that occur after an inappropriate student-educator relationship has been discovered. The Combating Inappropriate Student-Teacher Relationships Task Force's objective was to develop and recommend policies and/or procedures that could work toward preventing inappropriate student-educator relationships.

Summary of Issue: The EPSB chartered the Task Force at its meeting on June 8, 2015. The Task Force convened key stakeholders with the purpose of reviewing current practices and policies relating to inappropriate student-teacher relationships and making recommendations to combat such relationships.

Within three (3) identified areas: 1) the educator, 2) the student, and 3) the parent/guardian, the Task Force developed ten (10) recommendations for various state agencies, organizations, districts and schools to consider for implementation. The report and recommendations of the Task Force are attached. The four (4) recommendations specifically made to the KBE/Kentucky Department of Education are:

Recommendation B: The Kentucky Department of Education, where appropriate, should utilize the state educator code of ethics to develop regulations that would support school districts in employee discipline for a violation.

Agency or Organization(s): KDE

Suggested Timeline: This item should follow the revision of the state educator code of ethics (Recommendation A).

Recommendation F: Develop a model student code of rights and appropriate boundaries that districts could add to their student codes of conduct.

Agency or Organization(s): KDE

Suggested Timeline: 2017-2018 school year

Recommendation G: Develop a research-based curriculum to help students understand the concept of appropriate boundaries.

Agency or Organization(s): KDE

Suggested Timeline: Develop and pilot in the 2016-2017 school year; Implement in the 2017-2018 school year

Recommendation H: Provide for parents and guardians a concise list of expectations for school staff when communicating and interacting with students including electronic communications.

Agency or Organization(s): School Districts, KDE, KYPTA

Suggested Timeline: Fall 2016

The EPSB is currently reviewing its code of ethics to determine whether changes are necessary as recommended by the Task Force (see Recommendation A). Any changes to the code of ethics will impact execution of the remaining recommendations, including those to the KBE/KDE. Therefore, no action is recommended at this time.

Budget Impact: Unknown at this time

Contact Persons:

James W. Adams, Executive Director
Education Professional Standards Board
(502) 564-4606
E-mail: jimmy.adams@ky.gov

Todd Allen, KDE Assistant General Counsel
Office of Guiding Support Services
(502) 564-4474
E-mail: todd.allen@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

August 2016