

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

New Skills for Youth (NSFY) Initiative and Grant Update

### **Rationale:**

To provide the Kentucky Board of Education with pertinent updates and information related to the NSFY initiative and grant funding.

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** As part of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Career Readiness Initiative, JPMorgan Chase has dedicated \$35 million of grant funding for CCSSO to lead the New Skills for Youth grant opportunity for states.

***Summary:*** The NSFY initiative has two overarching goals:

- To dramatically increase the number of students in the U.S. who successfully complete career pathways that begin in secondary school and culminate in postsecondary degrees and/or industry credentials with labor market value; and
- To catalyze transformational approaches for the design and implementation of programs and policies to increase students' career-readiness in a cohort of leading states and disseminate lessons learned to the rest of the country.

Kentucky was one of 25 states (including the District of Columbia) to be awarded Phase One grant funds (a six-month planning grant) as part of this initiative in May of 2016. This presentation will provide the Kentucky Board of Education with updates regarding the Phase One grant accomplishments, including the collaborative work between the Kentucky Department of Education and its grant team partners.

Phase One grant recipients also were provided the opportunity to apply for Phase Two funding in October through a written and face-to-face process with a national selection committee. Information on this process, the Phase Two announcement timeline, and the strategic goals for Phase Two implementation also will be provided with board members during this presentation. Additional information will be shared regarding the regional meetings that have been hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education and facilitated by the Commissioner related to the grant vision and funding opportunities. These

meetings had a total of 120 attendees from 69 school districts, 38 of which were district superintendents.

***Budget Impact:*** The grant funds awarded to the Kentucky Department of Education for Phase One of the NSFY grant totaled \$100,000.00. Phase Two awardees are eligible for up to \$2M over the next three years; however, the states selected to receive this funding have not yet been announced.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

December 2016