

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 twenty-five 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. Specifically, representatives from the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS) will be present to share information regarding the sector analysis data (reference handouts). KCEWS will also be able to offer additional data reporting that will complement accountability measures required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

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. Kentucky received an award notification on January 11, 2017, announcing the state as one of only ten states to receive Phase Two funding. The strategic goals for Phase Two implementation will be shared with board members during this presentation, as well as information 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, 38 of which were district superintendents, and included representation from 69 school districts. The Kentucky Department of Education will publish a Request for Applications (RFA) in March of 2017, as explained in the attached document.

Budget Impact: The grant funds awarded to the Kentucky Department of Education for Phase One of the NSFY grant totaled \$100,000.00 and Phase Two funding will be approximately \$2 million over the next three years.

Contact Person:

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Pruitt" clearly legible.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

February 2017