

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

New District Facility Plans: Beechwood Independent, Danville Independent, and Harlan County

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed new District Facility Plans (DFPs) for Beechwood Independent, Danville Independent, and Harlan County School Districts in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180.

Rationale:

Department staff certify for the KBE that the plans presented are in compliance with 702 KAR 4:180 and that the appropriate steps have occurred as follows: (1) Local Planning Committee (LPC) selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plans for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public meetings and forums notification through news media; (4) local public hearing conducted with appointed hearing officer; and (5) plans submitted for KBE approval.

Action Question:

Should the KBE approve the proposed DFPS for the Kentucky school districts listed above?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum) if the district applied for and was granted a waiver.

Summary: The facilities planning process provides a District Facility Plan that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services). Local school districts are required to select a LPC to develop a DFP outlining capital construction priorities.

Information reviewed in developing the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff provide the process to be undertaken by the district in an orientation package.

Information for KDE review is then developed by the LPC and its consultants.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. If the local board does not approve the DFP, it goes back to the LPC for further refinement. However, a DFP submitted for approval by the KBE is the final decision of the local board of education and may or may not reflect the determinations of the LPC.

The submitted DFPs for Beechwood Independent, Danville Independent, and Harlan County were recommended by the LPCs and approved by the local boards of education. Attached with each district's facility plan and hearing report are enrollment projections and enrollment histories with non-resident student data for the district.

Budget Impact: Approval of District Facility Plans has no budget impact on state funds.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses

Public forums and a local public hearing were held in the school districts with no significant issues noted. The plans were approved by the local planning committees and school boards of the districts.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

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