

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Policy Adoptions and Amendments

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that personnel policies for certified staff be adopted (chapter 3) and existing policies related to curriculum and instruction (chapter 8) and students (chapter 9) be approved as amended.

Rationale:

To update legal and best practice in order to increase the effectiveness of managing the programs and operations at KSB and KSD and ensure compliance with relevant state and federal policies, regulations and statutes. Additionally, new policies related to certified personnel are critical for the effective operation of the schools and for a quality education for students.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.070, KRS 167.015, KRS 167.150, KRS 167.240

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the adoption of proposed, new policies as well as amendments to existing policies for the KSB and KSD?

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 156.070 gives the KBE the management and control of KSB and KSD. Upon review of existing policies and procedures at each school, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff and school leadership recognized the need for these to be updated, and, to the extent possible, be consistent between the schools. As a result, the KDE and the schools have been working with the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) to consider its model policies to produce a set of policies for KSB and KSD. Not only will these policies provide consistency between the two schools, they will be consistent with school districts across the Commonwealth, except in those few instances when the unique situation of these schools would require otherwise.

The KBE has previously approved the following policies over the past several years. KSBA organizes policies by chapter. The following chapters have already been adopted for KSB and KSD:

Chapter 1 – Powers & Duties
Chapter 4 – Fiscal Management
Chapter 5 – School Facilities
Chapter 7 – Support Services
Chapter 8 – Curriculum & Instruction
Chapter 9 – Students
Chapter 10 – Community Relations

The KBE has not yet adopted the following chapters:

Chapter 2 – Administration
Chapter 3 – Personnel
Chapter 6 – Transportation

Summary: Chapter 3, containing personnel policies for certified staff, is proposed for adoption in an effort to increase the effectiveness of managing these two schools by having a comprehensive set of policies that establish clear operational procedures. The policies contained in this chapter are based on KSBA policies. The only modifications are vocabulary and title changes necessary to meet the structure of state government (e.g., superintendent changed to commissioner/designee).

In addition, attached amendments relate to chapters 8 and 9. A chart is attached explaining the proposed changes. Going forward, both leadership at the schools and KDE staff have prioritized the adoption of policies related to chapters 2, 3 and 6. Further, a communications policy is being written specifically for KSD. The board can expect to see these proposed policies in the near future.

Budget Impact: No impact occurs to state funds due to the adoption or amendment of these policies.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff has consulted the following groups:

- Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA)
- Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)

All parties listed above are in support of the proposed policy changes. Comments from the Local Superintendents Advisory Council should be received by the February meeting.

Contact Persons:

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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 large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.

Commissioner of Education

Date:

February 2017