

# **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 communications (as part of chapter 3) and transportation policies be adopted and existing policies related to fiscal management (chapter 4), support services (chapter 7), curriculum and instruction (chapter 8), students (chapter 9) and community relations (chapter 10) be approved as amended.

### **Rationale:**

To update legal and best practice 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 communications and transportation are critical for the effective operation of the schools and a quality education for students.

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the adoption of the proposed new and amended policies for KSB and KSD?

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.070, KRS 167.015, KRS 167.150, KRS 167.240

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** KRS 156.070 gives the KBE oversight 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 policies to be updated and, to the extent possible, 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 appropriate policies and procedures for KSB and KSD. These policies will provide consistency between the two schools, as well as be consistent with school districts across the Commonwealth, except in those few instances when the unique situation of these schools would require otherwise. One exception to note is the proposed communications policy for KSD which will ensure all staff are competent in the use of American Sign Language (ASL), so KSD students will have full access to communication and instruction.

The KBE has previously approved the following policies over the past several years:

- Chapter 1 – Powers & Duties
- Chapter 3 – Personnel
- 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 6 – Transportation (a proposed policy for adoption is included)

**Summary:** A communication policy (as part of Chapter 3) for KSD staff is proposed for adoption in an effort to increase the access to curriculum and instruction for KSD students. Students need instruction in their primary language, ASL, as well as access to incidental language throughout the school day.

In addition, attached amendments relate to Chapters 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10. A chart is attached explaining the proposed changes along with an annotated policy packet provided by KSBA. Going forward, leadership at the schools and KDE staff have prioritized the adoption of policies related to Chapter 2. 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)
- KSD American Sign Language (ASL) Committee

All parties listed above are in support of the proposed policy changes.

**Contact Persons:**

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*Stephen L Pruitt*

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

August 2017