

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Request from Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen and Trimble County School Districts (iLEAD Academy) for Waiver of 704 KAR 3:305, Section 2

Commissioner’s Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the request from iLead Academy to waive certain requirements of 704 KAR 3:305, Section 2.

Rationale:

Approval of this waiver request provides greater flexibility for career pathway completion and provides for acceleration opportunities.

Action Question:

Should the KBE grant the iLEAD Academy’s request for a waiver of part of 704 KAR 3:305, Section 2 to provide greater flexibility for career pathway completion?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.160 and 704 KAR 3:305

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 156.160(2)(a) states: “At the request of a local board of education or a school council, a local school district superintendent shall request that the Kentucky Board of Education waive any administrative regulation promulgated by that board. Beginning in the 1996-97 school year, a request for waiver of any administrative regulation shall be submitted to the Kentucky Board of Education in writing with appropriate justification for the waiver.”

Summary: Section 2 of 704 KAR 3:305, *Minimum Requirements for High School Graduation*, provides for a high school diploma upon the completion of a required number of courses, specifically defined in the areas of Language Arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, history and appreciation of visual and performing arts, academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences, and demonstrated performance-based competency in technology. This waiver request seeks to

allow for flexibility in establishing the series of courses a student completes to meet graduation requirements but does not give flexibility in the number of credits.

The iLEAD Academy is a personalized learning high school that serves students from Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen, and Trimble County school districts. Students attending iLEAD pursue dual credit opportunities that allow them to graduate with a significant number of postsecondary credits. iLEAD Academy seeks this waiver in order to use academic readiness as the measure of meeting minimum high school graduation requirements, rather than completing a specific series of courses. Only students from participating districts who have met the requirements below would be eligible for this alternative graduation pathway based on the following criteria:

- 1) A minimum of a proficient score on the state assessments (where available) used to measure the indicators of proficiency (reading/writing and mathematics) and the separate academic indicator (science and social studies); and
- 2) Meet one of the Academic Readiness requirements to be Transition Ready as outlined in 703 KAR 5:270.

To maintain this waiver, the districts sending students to the iLEAD Academy also agree to:

- 1) Provide KDE with the district's policy regarding individual graduation plans;
- 2) Provide KDE with the conditions under which the district may grant a diploma based on an individual graduation plan and that students shall complete a locally designed course of study, personalized to the individual student's needs and interests, that incorporates the breadth of the Kentucky Academic Standards and by which the student provides evidence of successful demonstration of the competencies expected of a Kentucky high school graduate.
- 3) Submit each Individual Graduation Plan to KDE for approval. Each plan will include the learning opportunities the student shall engage in and how those opportunities will address the breadth of the Kentucky Academic Standards.
- 4) Keep records showing evidence that these criteria have been met and to make available these records as requested by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). In addition, the district agrees, at the request of the KBE and after an appropriate length of time, to report to the KBE on the postsecondary success of these students.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact on state funds.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

The local boards of education for Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen and Trimble County school districts voted and approved their support for this request. Documentation of such support is attached for each school district.

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Commissioner of Education

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