

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

KSBA School Energy Managers Project Update

Rationale:

To provide the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with an update on the work of KSBA's School Energy Managers Project (SEMP), which helps districts reduce their energy consumption and costs in compliance with statutory mandate.

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.455 and 160.325

History/Background:

Existing Policy: In 2010, the General Assembly enacted KRS 160.325 which requires all school boards to develop energy management plans "to reduce rising energy costs that are straining school budgets." To help districts comply with this unfunded mandate, KSBA created the SEMP program to facilitate placement of trained energy managers directly into schools to develop and implement energy management plans. SEMP staff provides analytical and technical support, professional development and also intervenes in utility rate cases on behalf of districts.

Since 2010, districts have reduced their energy consumption which, along with other SEMP efforts, has saved them \$123 million. These dollars have been freed up for direct student services. SEMP is an example of a successful collaboration between state agencies, local school boards and district staff, utilities, legislators, and the KSBA. It was named the ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year by the EPA from 2014 to 2017.

Summary: SEMP places trained energy managers into schools to focus on reducing energy costs. Since 2010, districts have saved \$123 million. These dollars go back into the classroom and are used for other district needs instead of being spent on utilities.

Budget Impact: This program is funded by KSBA, with grant support from LGE/KU and Kentucky Power. It has no impact on the KDE budget at this time.

Contact Person:

Ron Willhite
Kentucky School Boards Association
(502) 783-0058
Ron.Willhite@ksba.org

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'.

Eric Kennedy
Kentucky School Boards Association
(502) 783-0061
Eric.Kennedy@ksba.org

Commissioner of Education

Date:

December 2017