

LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (LSAC)

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Mr. Buddy Berry
Mr. Steve Trimble
Dr. James Flynn

June 1, 2018

Mr. Milton Seymore, Board Chair
Kentucky Board of Education
300 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

RE: May 29, 2018 LSAC Meeting

Dear Mr. Seymore:

The Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) met on May 29, 2018 to discuss the request for approval of the following regulations:

703 KAR 5:280, School Improvement Procedures (*Second Reading, new regulation*)

Superintendent Flynn (Simpson County) questioned the goal and content of the “induction training” added on page 5. He offered that it would be to introduce non-department led teams to Kentucky-specific audit requirements. Dr. Lewis clarified that it would be different from training for department-led teams, which would be broader in terms of methods and processes used. Superintendent Bobrowski (Owsley County) asked if department-led audits would look similar as in prior years. He stated that KDE’s turnaround model is nationally recognized and that he would not think substantial changes would be made to that model.

There was much discussion about the change on page 10 that says an SBDM council “may” be restored. He clarified that, while the law leaves discretion to the local board of education, he did not believe this would be a completely unrestricted authority as it could be subject to challenge, although such is not specified in statute.

Superintendent Green (Pikeville Ind.) asked about conducting accreditation audits on the same timeline as turnaround audits. Dr. Lewis indicated this would seem

inadvisable based on the nature of the two audits. He clarified that this is not something we would dictate happen in regulation. And, in fact, he does not believe we could require by regulation AdvancedEd, for example, to conduct a simultaneous accreditation audit as KDE has a limited scope of regulatory authority.

There was discussion about KDE resources available for turnaround, particularly related to anticipated higher number of targeted assistance (TSI) schools. Superintendent Flynn said he was worried schools who needed help would not have access to it. Superintendent Bobrowski asked about KDE providing a “turnaround model” that could be used a tool by districts statewide. Dr. Lewis indicated he welcomed feedback and ideas from stakeholders, and he noted more information on the accountability system, particularly around standards setting, would be offered at the June KBE meeting. He would also note that there are a variety of supports short of on-site support that could be offered to TSI schools, including use of Hub Schools and related resources.

Superintendent Flynn asked about reimbursement for non-department led audit and turnaround teams. I cited to KRS 160.346 as limiting that reimbursement to the amount the department set aside to offer the support. The actual cost may be more or less, but the amount reimbursed would not exceed that statutory set amount. He also clarified that, if costs are a deterrent, the statute would say a department-led team should be selected. Superintendent Cox (Corbin Ind.) requested additional accountability guidance be supplied so that Superintendents could explain in layman’s terms why a district/school scored the way it did and, if the district/school has been identified for turnaround, what has to happen going forward. Dr. Lewis noted this request.

704 KAR 3:015, Kentucky All STARS for Preschool Programs (*Second Reading, new regulation*)

KDE staff went over the regulation and the changes that have been made since the first reading. Those changes are summarized in the staff note by section.

A superintendent asked who administers the environmental assessment and staff answered that Regional Training Centers administer those assessments.

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704 KAR 3:306, Kentucky Academic Standards for Historical and Cultural Influences of the Bible Elective Social Studies Course (*Second Reading, new regulation*)

Jennifer Fraker explained to LSAC the changes that had been made to the standards since the first reading. The changes were described as overall providing tighter alignment to HB 128. LSAC approved at the March meeting the inclusion of texts from other religions in the standards. However, at the April 2018 KBE meeting, the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee asked staff to align the standards more closely to the statute and therefore, other religion texts were removed and only biblical text remain in the second reading version of the standards.

One superintendent pointed out the removal of reference to other religious texts in the standards and it was explained that for better alignment to the statute, that reference was removed. The Commissioner pointed out that the standards provide a “floor” and not a “ceiling”. The schools and districts who offer the course may include other religious texts in their course because they set curriculum locally. Jennifer shared that companion documents will be posted on the KDE website for clarification. One superintendent asked what version of the Bible should they use for the course? KDE will not be specifying the translation to use. That is a local curriculum decision.

The LSAC membership offers this letter of support and affirms KDE’s recommendations for these regulations. The members of LSAC appreciate the opportunity to participate in the discussion and provide a local perspective on issues of concern to the Kentucky Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Green', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry Green
LSAC Chair

cc: Kentucky Board of Education Members