



RECEIVED JUN 06 2018

Matthew G. Bevin  
Governor

Derrick Ramsey  
Secretary  
Education and Workforce  
Development Cabinet

Wayne D. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Interim Commissioner of Education

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

300 Sower Boulevard • Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-3141 • [www.education.ky.gov](http://www.education.ky.gov)

May 31, 2018

Ms. Marganna Stanley, Superintendent  
Henderson County Public Schools  
1805 Second Street  
Henderson, KY 42420

Dear Superintendent Stanley:

This letter is in response to your request for a waiver of the requirements established by 704 KAR 3:410 Section 6(1) in favor of a locally designed, alternate day preschool program schedule. We understand the district seeks to maintain the number of eligible children served while reducing costs by providing two full days per week of preschool programming for each eligible student. Henderson County will evaluate the new schedule for effectiveness during the local preschool annual evaluation process.

Your request for a locally designed preschool program for 2018-19 is approved. Future approval will be granted through the annual Preschool Program Approval process. Please contact Bill Buchanan at (502) 564-7056 should you have any more questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne D. Lewis".

Wayne D. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Interim Commissioner of Education



Thelma B. Johnson  
Early Learning Center  
631 N. Green Street  
Henderson, KY 42420  
(270) 854-0140

---

March 28, 2018

Commissioner Stephen Pruitt  
Kentucky Department of Education  
Office of the Commissioner of Education  
300 Sower Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Commissioner Pruitt,

The Henderson County Preschool Program presently provides programming to all eligible children in a half-day, four (4) days/week program, with the fifth day for services to children and their families, such as home visits, special experiences for children, parent training, or coordination of medical or social services as required by 704 KAR3:410 section 6(1). Each session meets a minimum of three (3) hours each day, Monday through Thursday. It is with respect that I request consideration of a locally-designed program approved by the chief state school officer, in accordance with 704 KAR 3:410, Section 6(1)(c).

### **Background Information**

Henderson County Public Schools' general fund presently supplements the preschool grant so that all eligible children can be served in high quality environments, providing additional resources above and beyond what is required by the Kentucky Preschool Regulations. Currently, we provide services to all three- and four-year old children with an identified disability, as well as all four-year old children who are income eligible. With school districts facing reduced funding, the Henderson County Preschool Program must consider how to continue to provide high quality services with a much smaller portion of district support.

Transportation is one of our greatest expenditures. Henderson County Public Schools currently serves 471 preschool children in one location in Henderson County. Thirty-two preschool bus routes are required to transport students across all times of the preschool day (arrival, mid-day, dismissal). These busses travel 600 miles per day for 140 days. That is a total of cost of \$31,920 in diesel fuel for the year ( $\$0.38 \times 600 \text{ mi} \times 140 \text{ days}$ ). Each preschool bus has at least one monitor on every route. Additionally, eight of our busses also require a third monitor



for special needs or high capacity. The mid-day route requires 17 busses at the following costs: drivers-\$59,819 and monitors- \$26,494, plus fringe (\$41,629) per year. The mid-day route costs the district \$1,970.42 per day for a total of \$275,859 per year (including maintenance and substitutes). The Governor's proposed transportation reduction of 62% of the amount currently funded is \$1,375,427 and would have to be absorbed by the Henderson County Public School System. Without the district support for mid-day routes, it is highly likely that parents of our preschool children would be required to provide their own mid-day transportation. It is our strong belief that preschool enrollment numbers would drop significantly as transportation resources are very limited with the at-risk population and there is only limited access to city transit opportunities.

Salaries are another large portion of the preschool budget. The district's general fund has supplemented the costs of salaries to maintain ratios for what is required by Kentucky's Preschool Regulations. Based on a modestly projected enrollment number of 344, at least 11 teachers and 13 instructional assistants would be expected to be retained or hired to serve this number for the 2018-19 school year. (The 344 enrollment number is 137 less than our current enrollment, which if escalated to our present enrollment, could lead to the addition of 3.5 teachers and 3.5 assistants). Hiring new staff and/or hiring staff after the start of the year also results in extra expenses for mandatory and necessary professional learning as well as additional district funding for uncalculated salaries.

### **Proposed Locally-Designed Program**

Henderson County Schools proposes a model of preschool service delivery which would maintain the number of eligible children served while reducing costs. This model would provide two full days per week of preschool programming for each eligible student. This change would eliminate the significant costs of mid-day transportation while continuing to provide all eligible children with transportation to and from school. If we continue to offer half day programming, it is highly likely we could not provide mid-day transportation, thus making transportation a parental responsibility. This would very likely reduce the opportunity for many eligible children to participate in high quality preschool programming.

### **Request**

In order to best serve all eligible preschool children and maximize the use of existing available resources (including a significant savings in transportation costs), Henderson County

Commissioner Pruitt  
March 26, 2018  
Page 3

Schools respectfully requests approval for all eligible preschool children to attend preschool two full days per week. Ideally, we would like for students to be able to attend on either a:

1. Monday-Wednesday/Tuesday-Thursday schedule
2. or a Monday-Thursday/Tuesday-Friday schedule

Upon your approval, we will begin the process of making this a reality for our students, parents, faculty, and staff beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marganna Stanley".

Marganna Stanley  
Superintendent