



2019 KDE/KBE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES PROPOSAL

During the 2019 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky Department of Education proposes support for legislation which accomplishes the following:

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND STABILITY

- Ratifies the Governor's executive orders setting forth revised membership on state education boards and commissions, reorganization of the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), and establishment of the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness within the Kentucky Department of Education.
- Provides the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education with additional options and authority for managing potential county school district insolvency.

GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR LEADERS TO MEET NEW ACCOUNTABILITY DEMANDS

- Provides district and school administrators with the flexibility to set education policy, to control administrative decision making, and to attract and retain high quality, effective teachers, particularly in hard-to-staff geographic areas, schools, and subject areas, including paying, incentivizing, and/or rewarding teachers based on effectiveness, as defined or determined at the local level.
- Ensures that state and district personnel policy prioritizes the importance ensuring that every student has access to a high quality, effective teacher, and as necessary, while protecting staff members' rights to due process, permits administrators to remove ineffective staff from schools and classrooms as necessary for the benefit of students.
- Returns the authority to select principals to local district superintendents, while ensuring that school-based decision making councils (SBDM) play an advisory role in principal selection, including but not limited to making recommendations to the local district superintendent.
- Streamlines the application processes for the Districts of Innovation (DOI) program, permits schools to apply as schools of innovation, and in exchange for greater performance accountability, provides schools and districts granted DOI status with a blanket waiver from statutes and regulations similar to the blanket waiver provided to public charter schools.

PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT

- Increases parental voice on SBDM councils by changing the composition of councils such that parents of students attending the school have at least as many voting council seats as teachers.
- Provides a funding mechanism to permit federal, state, and applicable local public education funding to follow children to the public charter school of their parents' choosing.

EARLY LEARNING

- Requires the diagnosis and intervention for reading and mathematics deficiencies for students in grades kindergarten through 3; and with exceptions for students based on disability, limited English proficiency, and previous retention, establishes a retention threshold and additional required intervention at grade 3 for students who fail to meet a state-determined minimum standard for reading ability.

TRANSITION READINESS

- Ratifies the Governor's executive orders establishing and expanding the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship which covers tuition and fees for up to 60 credit hours in certificate, diploma, and applied associates degree programs in Kentucky's top five high demand sectors; and covers the cost of tuition and fees for high school students to take up to two CTE dual credit courses per academic year.
- Establishes a taskforce to study the structure and funding of career and technical education in Kentucky at the secondary and postsecondary levels, with the taskforce providing recommendations for legislation prior to the 2020 legislative session.