

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Overview of the Office of Special Education and Early Learning
Date: June 2019
Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion
Assigned To: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
 Finance Operations Management

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To update the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) on the organizational structure and duties of the newly designated Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) in the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

Kentucky’s Constitution Sections 69 and 8, KRS 12.028 and KRS Chapter 156

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy: The OSEEL consists of three divisions: the Division of IDEA Monitoring and Results, the Division of Idea Implementation and Preschool, and the Division of State Schools. The Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Branch and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Branch are established within the Division of State Schools

Summary of Issue: The OSEEL aims to improve educational outcomes for diverse and early learners through effective support, technical assistance, guidance, training and coaching for local school districts, students, and families regarding the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Gifted and Talented, and preschool.

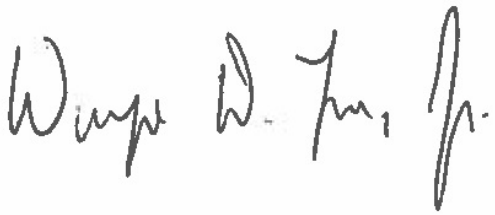
Budget Impact: The IDEA is a grants statute that provides federal funding for the education of children with disabilities and requires, as a condition for the receipt of such funds, that states agree to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE; i.e., specially designed instruction provided at no cost to the parents that meets the needs of a child with a disability) to every eligible child.

Funds are primarily available through three components: “flow-through”; state administration; and state set-aside activities. Most of the federal funds provided to states are passed on to local education agencies (LEAs) through “flow-through” funds. Funds are also authorized to administer Kentucky’s implementation of the IDEA including its General Supervisory requirements. Thirty-three (33) positions are fully funded in the OSEEL through the state administration funds to carry out these specific requirements. Finally, funds are authorized for discretionary, non-administrative state activities such as technical assistance, personnel shortages, and promising practices. Examples of discretionary activities that assist OSEEL with fulfilling its mission for students with disabilities ages 3- 21 include the Special Education Cooperatives and Early Childhood Regional Training Centers.

Primary funding for Kentucky's preschool program, extended school services, and gifted and talented are all state general fund appropriations.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Gretta Hylton, Associate Commissioner
Office of Special Education and Early Learning
Gretta.Hylton@education.ky.gov
(502) 564-4970 ext. 4109



Commissioner of Education

Category: <input type="checkbox"/> District Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family/Community Involvement	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student/Family Supports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Interventions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coursework Completion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting