

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Renewal of Owensboro Independent Schools and Owsley County Schools as Districts of Innovation

Date: August 2019

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
 Finance Operations Management

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the renewal applications from Owensboro Independent Schools and Owsley County Schools to continue as Districts of Innovation.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the renewal applications from Owensboro Independent Schools and Owsley County Schools to continue as Districts of Innovation.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.108, KRS 160.107, and 701 KAR 5:140.

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 156.108(2) states: "The Kentucky Board of Education is hereby authorized to approve districts of innovation for the purposes of improving students' educational performance. Districts of innovation shall be provided flexibility from selected Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Kentucky Revised Statutes, and local board of education policies for school administrators, teachers, and staff to meet the diverse needs of students. The initial approval of a district of innovation shall be for a five (5) year period. Each renewal of a district of innovation shall not exceed five (5) years and shall comply with administrative regulations promulgated by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section."

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) established, through the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR), the complete application process for Districts of Innovation and states in 701 KAR 5:140, Section 3(5): "A committee designated by the Commissioner of Education shall review and recommend approval or denial of a completed application to the Kentucky Board of Education within forty-five (45) days from receipt of the completed application based on use of the District of Innovation Application Scoring Rubric."

Summary of Issue:

The KBE approved Owensboro Independent Schools as a District of Innovation for five years beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. As permitted by 701 KAR 5:140, Owensboro Independent Schools submitted a renewal application on May 9, 2019 requesting to continue operating as a District of Innovation for up to five additional years. Using the District of Innovation Application Scoring Rubric, the Commissioner-designated committee reviewed the District of Innovation Application submitted by Owensboro Independent Schools and recommended the school district be approved as a District of Innovation for five years beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

The KBE approved Owsley County Schools as a District of Innovation for five years beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. As permitted by 701 KAR 5:140, Owsley County Schools submitted a renewal application on May 2, 2019 requesting to continue operating as a District of Innovation for up to five additional years. Using the District of Innovation Application Scoring Rubric, the Commissioner-designated committee reviewed the District of Innovation Application submitted by Owsley County Schools and recommended the school district be approved as a District of Innovation for five years beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

Budget Impact:

No additional state funds are allocated for the Districts of Innovation program.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

As required by 701 KAR 5:140, a Commissioner-designated committee comprised of staff from the Kentucky Department of Education reviewed the renewal applications from Owensboro Independent Schools and Owsley County Schools and, based on the District of Innovation Application Scoring Rubric, recommended both districts be approved to continue as Districts of Innovation for five years beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. A summary of both renewal applications, as well as the review committee's recommendations on each specific waiver request therein, have been submitted to the KBE for consideration and final action.

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Commissioner of Education

Category: District Innovation Strengthening Educators Family/Community Involvement
 Student/Family Supports Student Interventions Coursework Completion Accountability Reporting