

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Commissioner’s Recommendation to Designate the Breathitt County School District for State Assistance

Date: December 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 Commissioner’s recommendation that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) designate the Breathitt County school district for state assistance. KRS 158.780 requires the KBE to “establish a program for...involuntary supervision...of a local school district” and says, if a “pattern of a lack of efficiency or effectiveness in the governance or administration of a school district” exists, the KBE “shall declare the district a ‘state assisted district’ or a ‘state managed district’ and the state board shall then assume control of the district as set forth in this section and KRS 158.785.”

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the KBE designate the Breathitt County for state assistance to address a pattern of a significant lack of efficiency and effectiveness in the governance and administration of the district that continues to exist.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205.

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 158.780 and 158.785 require the KBE to establish a program for management improvement services for school districts that demonstrate a critical lack of efficiency or effectiveness in governance or administration that state-mandated corrective action or state control of the district is required. 703 KAR 3:205 establishes the management improvement program and describes the management audit process.

Summary of Issue:

Beginning in August 2019, a KDE management audit team conducted a comprehensive management audit of the Breathitt County school district. The audit team conducted 212 interviews with various stakeholders, including but not limited to the advisory board members, school-based decision making (SBDM) council members, district and school administrators, certified and classified staff, state manager, and Education Recovery staff.

On October 23, 2019, the commissioner notified the Breathitt County Board of Education in writing that, based upon the findings of a management audit and ongoing oversight of the district while under state management, he was recommending the state board designate the Breathitt County school district for state assistance.

Budget Impact:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) assigns personnel and resources from the Office of Continuous Improvement and Support as well as the Office of Finance and Operations to support the work in this school district. The estimated budget impact to the KDE is approximately \$500,000 annually in staffing-related costs.

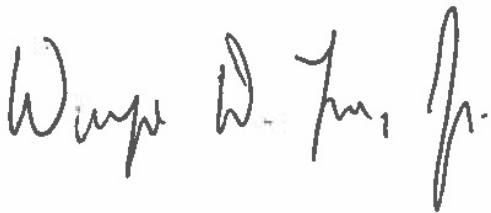
GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

On October 29, 2019, the Breathitt County Board of Education voted in a public meeting to accept, and not contest, the recommendation that the district be designated for state assistance. Thus, in accordance with 703 KAR 3:205, the Commissioner places this recommendation before the KBE for its approval without a hearing.

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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 type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting