

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Waiver of Kentucky Tech Policy 08.5 (Flagging Programs and Student to Teacher Ratios)

Date: December 2020

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the waiver request of Kentucky Tech Policy 08.5 related to the flagging of Area Technology Center (ATC) programs and Student to Teacher Ratios (STRs), for the 2020-2021 academic year.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of this waiver, as it provides the necessary flexibility in light of the continued impacts of COVID-19 on ATCs.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.802

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has the responsibility for all administrative functions of the state in relation to the management, control and operation of the secondary ATCs. The ATCs shall be operated in compliance with program standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). The Kentucky Tech Policies and Procedures guide the work of the administrators, teachers and staff within the 51 ATCs and ensure consistent practice that is compliant with relevant state and federal statutes, regulations and policies.

Summary of Issue:

Kentucky Tech Policy 08.5 pertains to the program assessment protocols associated with the various CTE career pathways offered within each of the state's ATCs. Particularly, pages 2-3 of this policy outline the process for the "flagging" of programs that have low enrollment and may need to be considered for closure. This process is based upon data analysis of the program's STR, which has a threshold of 12.5 or lower for flagging purposes.

Due to the unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many ATC programs are currently experiencing lower than normal enrollments. The preliminary fall 2020 STR data validates this concern; thus, the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education recommends waiving the STR flagging requirements outlined in Kentucky Tech Policy 08.5 for the 2020-2021 academic year. All other sections of this policy shall remain in effect.

Budget Impact:

Waiver of this policy has no fiscal impact on the KDE or the individual ATCs.

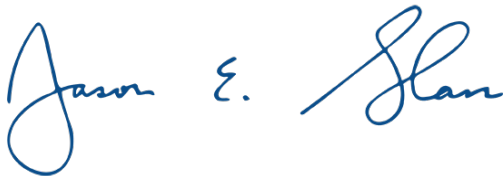
GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

Leadership within the KDE Office of Career and Technical Education has proposed this policy waiver, in consultation with the KDE Office of Legal Services.

The amendments also will be reviewed by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) at its November 24 meeting. Comments from this group should be received prior to the December KBE meeting.

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