

Senate Bill 128 gives Kentucky school districts the option to allow students to repeat a year due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. This bill is also known by some as the “do-over” bill and allows K-12 students currently enrolled in public schools to request to use the 2021-2022 school year as a supplemental year.

The Covington Board of Education wants to take this opportunity to share some facts related to this bill so that you can make an informed decision about the Supplemental School Year Program. Parent requests must be submitted by May 1, 2021. By statute, school boards are not allowed to decide requests on an individual basis. The Covington Board of Education will make a decision by June 1, 2021 on whether to approve all or none of the requests.

Please read the following to determine what it will mean for your child to participate in the Supplemental School Year Program. Most of the information comes from the Kentucky Department of Education’s Guidance for Schools and Districts, [Senate Bill 128: Supplemental School Year Program \(ky.gov\)](#).

After reading the guidance and only if you would like your child to participate in the Supplemental School Year Program, please fill out the application by clicking [here](#).

Graduating Seniors

- *Upon successful completion of all state and local board requirements, the student shall receive a diploma indicating graduation from high school.*
- *Once a student receives their diploma, the student’s final GPA will be calculated and should not be altered at a later date to reflect additional or updated coursework as part of the final GPA or credits towards graduation. However, the supplemental coursework and grades for the “graduated students” may be included in the student’s transcript for informational purposes.*
- *Students who graduate from high school during the 2020-21 school year are no longer considered high school students for scholarship purposes, and therefore, are not eligible for Dual Credit or Work Ready Dual Credit scholarships during the 2021-22 year. High School graduates who desire to use their KEES awards for postsecondary expenses must be enrolled (Dual Enrollment) at the postsecondary level as regular postsecondary students who are subject to full tuition rates. KEES cannot be used to pay for dual credit.*
- *All rules and regulations governing athletic eligibility, such as rules regarding transfers and age limitations, are not waived under this law. **For instance, students who become 19 before August 1, 2021, are not eligible to participate in sports.***
- *It is recommended that before students and parents make a decision about whether or not a graduated senior will request 2021-2022 as a supplemental year, they consult guidance provided by the [KHEAA](#), the [CPE](#) and the [Kentucky High School Athletic Association](#).*

High School Students in Grades 9-12

- *Courses taken during the supplemental year must be those the student previously was enrolled in or be reasonably connected to courses taken during 2020-2021. The Supplemental School Year Program was not established for students to explore coursework they otherwise did not have the opportunity to take previously.*
- *Students who currently are in 9th grade and above who choose to remain in school for a supplemental year **will not be on track to be an on-time graduate**, unless the students complete their diploma requirements in four years.*
- *A retaken high school course shall not count as an additional credit towards graduation unless the student failed the original course.*

Students in Grades K – 8

- The bill does not change anything for students in grades K-8. Covington Board of Education policy already allows students in K-8 to stay back/repeat a school year.
- Parents should discuss concerns about their child's progress with the school principal.

Students in Preschool

- This bill does not apply to children in preschool. Children in Kentucky are eligible for public preschool based on age and specific criteria established by the state.

Note about grade level retention: Grade level retention/repeating a grade is not an effective practice for most students. Years of research shows that there are many negative effects of being retained.

Parents who are concerned about their child's progress for the current year should ask their school principal about our summer programs to help students catch up and about our after-school programs that will be enhanced for school year 2021-2022.

Benefits

Students may make up/retake classes from prior year or take supplemental classes. For Example, if a high school student was enrolled in US History, they would retake US History, or they could take AP US History as a supplement.

Students who fail a high school course can retake that same course for credit.

Students who experienced learning loss because of the pandemic will have a full year of in person instruction.

Students may participate in extracurricular activities as long as they meet KHSAA age and other eligibility requirements.

Concerns

Students will be returning to school with a new class of students as the vast majority of students in their grade will be promoted.

Students cannot explore new elective class offerings in "supplemental" year.

Students may not be academically challenged by repeating the same class/courses.

If the student is 19 before August 1st, 2021, they will be **ineligible** for KHSAA sports during the 2021-22 school year.