

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Amendment of 702 KAR 7:125 Pupil Attendance Regulation

Date: August 2023

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 amendment of 702 KAR 7:125, the pupil attendance regulation, to update the process for early entrance into the primary program by removing an unnecessary approval process that will lessen the administrative burden on local school districts and to revise the formatting of the Home/Hospital Program Form.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the proposed amendment to 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance regulation.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070, 156.160, 157.320, 157.360, 158.070

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The proposed amendment of 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil attendance regulation is limited to changes to the process by which a student may enter the first level of the primary program when they are under the age of five (5) years old by August 1 of the year of enrollment and for entry into the second level of the primary program when they are under six (6) years old by August 1 of the year of enrollment. (702 KAR 7:125, Section 6), and to revise the formatting of the Home/Hospital Program Form. Under the current regulation, an underage student maybe enrolled after the local school district determines the student has attained an appropriate level of academic, social and development progress that supports an accelerated placement subject to review and approval by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). All districts are required to have a local board policy consistent with 702 KAR 7:125 and conduct an evaluation by a three person team which may include teachers, parents, psychologists, principals, and district specialists. The team is required to review multiple data sources, including anecdotal records, student work samples and standardized test results to reach a placement decision. The district's decision along with supporting documents are then forwarded to the KDE for approval. The proposed amendment would remove KDE's approval and leave the ultimate decision to the district. The district will continue to document its decision and maintain records which are subject to KDE review during audits. Additionally, the amendment revises the formatting of the Home/Hospital Program Form that is used for taking attendance of students in the program.

Summary of Issue:

It recently came to the attention of the Office of Finance and Operations through discussions with a school district and conversations with the Office of Teaching and Learning that the above

described process, particularly KDE’s review and approval of a district’s determination that a student was eligible to enter the primary program early was duplicative and unnecessary. As such, the proposed regulatory amendment removes KDE’s approval of a district’s determination. Districts will still have to follow and document the process for determining whether a student has attained the requisite aptitude for early entrance, however, districts will no longer need KDE’s approval to enroll the student. KDE will continue to review early student entrance data and documentation as part of district attendance audits. The amendment will lessen the administrative burden on school districts in forwarding data and records to the department and the delay while KDE reviews and approves. The proposed amendment also revises formatting of the Home/Hospital Form which is incorporated by reference into the regulation.

Budget Impact:

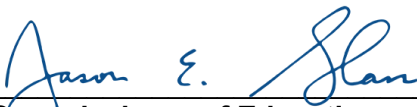
There is no impact on KDE’s budget.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES: Enter names of groups consulted and responses

The proposed amendment will be reviewed by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) at their July 25, 2023 meeting.

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Commissioner of Education

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