



Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

FW: Full-time student definitions

1 message

Ritter, Chay - KDE Division Director <chay.ritter@education.ky.gov>

Wed, Aug 16, 2023 at 8:55 AM

To: "jtackett@khsaa.org" <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Cc: "Foster, Kelly - KDE Associate Commissioner" <kelly.foster@education.ky.gov>, "Devine, Ronda - Division of District Support" <ronda.devine@education.ky.gov>, "Carlton, Jessica - Division of District Support" <jessica.carlton@education.ky.gov>, "Ross, Matt - Office of Finance and Operations" <matt.ross@education.ky.gov>

Julian,

Below is an overview of how our statutes and regulations define a full-time student. In the review, we did not find a reference to the four (4) hour day in statute or regulation but only in KHSAA by laws.

KRS 158.060(3) "Except for children with disabilities and children attending the primary school program who may attend a program of less than six (6) hours per day under policy adopted by the local school district board of education and approved by the commissioner of education and children attending a school district where the local board has approved a schedule that provides at least the equivalent of six (6) hours of daily instruction during the school year, a minimum of six (6) hours of actual school work shall constitute a school day. Kindergarten programs may be operated for less than six (6) hours without state board approval. The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the chief state school officer, shall develop and approve regulations governing make up by school districts of whole days missed due to emergencies, or partial days missed as a result of shortening regularly scheduled school days due to emergencies."

KRS 158.070(1)(f): "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062) hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred seventy (170) student attendance days." This establishes a full-time schedule.

There are many different programs a student can enter to attain more credits before their Senior year so that by their Senior year, they do not need as many credits to graduate, or need to maintain a full-time schedule. But a student with one class on campus cannot be considered a full-time student (even with all their requirements for graduation met).

The overall reoccurring number throughout the statutes and regs is six (6). This delineates what a full-time student is- whether by a conventional six (6) hours on campus, or a combination of off campus approved employment, through dual credit, or by taking a moral/or performance-based class along with some conventional classes on campus.

If a student is not enrolled in six (6) hours (assuming they are not in preschool or kindergarten, or have an IEP or 504 plan), then they are not considered to be full-time.

As for virtual school, treat the students' time spent in online classes as an alternative to being on campus for classes, and they can complete six (6) hours of virtual school, taking the classes assigned for graduation by the district, or they can combine some type of employment (co-op, internship, etc.), a dual credit class, etc. with their online instruction to meet the six (6) hour requirement.

I apologize for the time it took to respond but we wanted to do a thorough review with staff.

Thanks,

Chay

From: Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 7:53 AM
To: Ritter, Chay - KDE Division Director <chay.ritter@education.ky.gov>; Devine, Ronda - Division of District Support <ronda.devine@education.ky.gov>
Cc: Foster, Kelly - KDE Associate Commissioner <kelly.foster@education.ky.gov>
Subject: Full-time student definitions

Chay/Ronda (and copying in Kelly)

We are in the process of some housekeeping on our regulations as well as interpretations and have come across a question only you all should answer.

For decades (dating back to Alice McDonald), our requirements have been for students to "full-time" enrolled, and we further clarified that they were to be earning credits toward graduation for four hours of the six-hour school day. Certainly this seems to be very dated language as the references to four hours are just about non-existent (especially in our cross referenced reg 702 KAR 7:125)

Basically in communicating with a variety of districts in the last month, it appears that there is much more local flexibility on what is full time (other than in the no pass, no drive legislation). We are comfortable changing "enrolled earning credits toward graduation in at least four hours of the six-hour school day" to "enrolled earning credits toward graduation as a full-time student in the member high school as defined by district and state guidelines".

Do you see any red flags of eliminating the references to four hours and six hour school day?

Will also help us as the A8 school discussion goes on and virtual becomes more of an option we suspect.

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Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Today's Challenge - Be a Leader!

"Ultimately, a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus. And on some positions cowardice asks the question is it safe? Expediency asks the question is it politics? Vanity asks the question is it popular? The conscience asks the question is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politics nor popular but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right." —Dr. Martin Luther King

Julian Tackett, Commissioner

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