

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Amendments to 704 KAR 7:140, World War II and Korean Veterans diplomas

Date: April 2024

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on proposed amendments to 704 KAR 7:140 to conform with KRS 158.140(5)(b) which requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, to promulgate administrative regulations establishing the guidelines for use by local boards of education when awarding an authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who did not complete high school prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War.

704 KAR 7:140 has been amended to include honorably discharged veterans of the Vietnam War as eligible to receive an authentic high school diploma as provided under KRS 158.140(5)(a)3.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The commissioner recommends the board approve amendments to 704 KAR 7:140.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 158.140(5), 704 KAR 7:140

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 158.140(5)(b) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, to promulgate administrative regulations establishing the guidelines for use by local boards of education when awarding an authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who did not complete high school prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War. The regulation provides guidelines for local boards of education for receiving verified documentation from the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs in order to determine eligibility for awarding an authentic high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War.

Summary of Issue:

While 704 KAR 3:095 provides guidelines to local boards of education for awarding authentic high school diplomas for honorably discharged veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict, amendments are necessary to include honorably discharged veterans of the Vietnam War as required and defined under KRS 158.140(5)(a)3.

The proposed amendments to 704 KAR 7:140 conforms to KRS 158.140(5)(a)3 by including honorably discharged veterans of the Vietnam War as eligible for receiving an authentic high school diploma. The amendments provide local boards of education with guidelines for determining eligibility and receiving verified documentation from the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs in order to award an authentic high school diploma for veterans of World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War as required under KRS 158.140(5).

Amendments require local boards of education to follow the same actions as provided in 704 KAR 7:140 for honorably discharged veterans of the Vietnam War as is required in the existing regulation for honorably discharged veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict.

Budget Impact:

The cost to local boards of education, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs is minimal and may include staff time for verifying eligibility and added costs for printing/issuing an authentic high school diploma depending on the number of diplomas awarded each year for those who qualify under KRS 158.140(5).

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs is responsible for working in consultation with the KBE in promulgating administrative regulations to establish the guidelines for awarding the authentic diplomas, as provided under KRS 158.140(5)(b). Upon consultation, The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs provided a letter supporting the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 7:140 from Commissioner Whitney Allen Jr., Lt. Col. (ret) that was received by the KDE on February 29, 2024.

The regulation will go before the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) at its March 26, 2024 meeting. A summary of the feedback received by the council will be provided to the KBE prior to its April 2024 meeting.

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Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Educator Workforce Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Racial Equity Commitment <input type="checkbox"/> Student-Centered Accountability System <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Support
