

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: New Regulation: 704 KAR 3:315, Certification of Nonpublic Schools

Date: October 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 the proposed new regulation 704 KAR 3:315, Certification of Nonpublic Schools.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) adopt the new regulation 704 KAR 3:315, Certification of Nonpublic Schools.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.160(3)

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 156.160(3) provides that any "private, parochial or church school may voluntarily comply with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education and be certified upon application to the board by such schools." For nearly thirty years, the KBE has certified non-public schools by considering recommendations from the KyNPSC. Specifically, the KyNPSC ensures the schools being presented for certification have successfully completed the accreditation process through one of the following KBE-approved accrediting agencies:

KyNPSC, Inc.;
American Association of Christian Schools (AACS);
Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI);
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) / Cognia;
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod;
Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS);
North American Division of Seventh Day Adventists;
International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA);
Association Montessori International (AMI); or
American Montessori Society (AMS).

Summary of Issue:

The current process for the Certification of Nonpublic Schools is governed by a Kentucky Board of Education decision from 1992 and has remained unchanged since. Over the past thirty years, the landscape of nonpublic schools has changed. With changes to existing accrediting bodies

and their procedures, as well as the inception of new accrediting bodies, this regulation seeks to provide clear procedures to ensure that the process for certifying nonpublic schools remains a high quality process. This regulation empowers the Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission to develop procedures for the evaluation, and periodic re-evaluation of accrediting bodies, procedures for recommending nonpublic schools to the KBE for certification, and a policy for recommending certification revocation.

Budget Impact:

This regulation has no budget implications for the KDE, KBE, or local education agencies.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

This regulation was written in close consultation with the Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission (KyNPSC) and will be presented to the Local Superintendents Advisory Council during its November 26, 2024 meeting.

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Commissioner of Education

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
