

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Annual Certification of Non-public Schools

Date: June 4, 2025

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 request to certify the non-public schools that voluntarily applied and have been presented for certification by the Kentucky Non-public Schools Commission (KyNPSC).

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) accept the recommendations for voluntary certification of the non-public schools listed below that the KyNPSC ensures have successfully completed the accreditation process through a KBE approved accrediting agency.

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 30 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 KyNPSC presents the non-public schools listed in the attachment to be considered for voluntary certification by the KBE. The schools listed have successfully completed a voluntary accreditation process conducted by the KyNPSC or another KBE-approved accrediting agency.


Budget Impact:

There is no budgetary impact on the KBE/KDE.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES: The KyNPSC ensures the schools presented herein have met the accrediting standard of the KyNPSC or another KBE-approved accrediting agency and recommends the KBE grant these schools certification pursuant to KRS 165.160(3).

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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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
