

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Procedures for the Certification of Nonpublic 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 to approve the procedures for the Certification of Nonpublic Schools developed by the Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission pursuant to 704 KAR 3:315.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approves the procedures for the Certification of Nonpublic Schools developed by the Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission pursuant to 704 KAR 3:315.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

704 KAR 3:315

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." At its December 2024 meeting, the KBE approved 704 KAR 3:315 which updated and formalized the manner in which schools are recognized for certification. The regulation requires that the Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission presents their procedures to the board for review and approval annually at the June KBE meeting.

Summary of Issue:

The Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission has prepared a policy manual that is in full alignment with the requirements set out under 704 KAR 3:315. The policy manual includes the following policies:

- 1.0 Screening and Selection of Eligible Accrediting Agencies for Non-Public Schools
- 1.1 New Accrediting Agency Applicants
 - 1.1.1 Accrediting Agency Application for New Applicants
 - 1.1.2 Timeline for Accrediting Agency Application Review for New Applicants
- 1.2 Approved Accrediting Agency Rescreening
 - 1.2.1 Approved Accrediting Agency Rescreening Process
 - 1.2.2 Timeline for Approved Accrediting Agency Rescreening

- 1.3 Approved Accrediting Agencies List
- 2.0 Kentucky Non-Public School Certification
- 2.1 Voluntary Non-Public School Certification - New Schools
- 2.2 Voluntary Non-Public School Recertification
- 3.0 Revocation of Certification

Budget Impact:

This has no impact on the KDE budget.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

This presentation was developed by the Kentucky Nonpublic Schools Commission in consultation and collaboration with staff from the KDE.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Commissioner of Education

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