

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Traceable Communication System, Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

**Date:** August 2025

**Action Requested:**  Review  Action/Consent  Action/Discussion

**Held In:**  Full Board  State Schools  United We Learn

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To act on the traceable communication systems for Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), which meet the requirements of [2025 Acts Chapter 149](#) (SB 181).

### COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the traceable communication system for each school.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

[KRS 156.070](#); [KRS 167.015](#); [KRS 160.145](#)

### BACKGROUND:

KRS 156.070 details the general powers and duties of the state board, including management of the two state schools: "The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services." KRS 167.015 also provides that: "The Kentucky School for the Blind at Louisville, Kentucky, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf at Danville, Kentucky, shall be managed and controlled by the Kentucky Board of Education."

#### *Summary of Issue:*

During the 2025 legislative session, Kentucky's General Assembly passed Senate Bill 181, an act relating to children. It created a new section of KRS Chapter 160 requiring each local board of education to designate a traceable communication system to be the exclusive means for school administrators, classified or certified employees of the school district, school volunteers, nonfaculty coaches or assistant coaches, student teachers, and sponsors of extracurricular programs or activities, to communicate with students. The traceable communication system must trace all communications sent to or by a student and provide parents an opportunity to access and review those communications.

The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) has selected the following components to be included in the traceable communication system:

- Microsoft 365 KSB and KSD school accounts (KSB and KSD)
- Google Workspace for Education, KSB and KSD school accounts (KSB and KSD)
- Infinite Campus Messenger (KSB and KSD)
- Facebook, KSB and KSD school accounts (KSB and KSD)
- YouTube, KSB and KSD school accounts (KSB and KSD)
- Smore newsletter builder, KSB school account (KSB only)

A staff note attachment is provided to outline the details of each component (i.e., school, component, one- or two-way capabilities, account holders and contact initiators, audience and purpose and additional notes).

*Budget Impact:*

Currently, no fiscal impact is anticipated.

**GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

The OSEEL consulted with KDE’s Office of Education Technology and KDE’s Office of Legal Services. OSEEL will communicate with staff and families once the school year begins to assess impact and potential barriers to meaningful participation in the educational process.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Commissioner of Education**

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