

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board Appointment

Date: December 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 proposed candidate to maintain current membership on the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends Dr. Robin Cochran be appointed to the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board. Dr. Cochran meets the necessary criteria for appointment.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

[KRS 156.070](#); [KRS 167.015](#); [KRS 167.037](#)

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

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."

KRS 167.037 states that a KSD Advisory Board shall be established. The advisory board is composed of nine members appointed by the KBE upon recommendation by the chief state school officer for terms of four years. The advisory board elects from its membership a chair and vice chair at the first regular meeting of the fiscal year. A member may serve no more than two consecutive years as chair. The purpose of the board is to act in an advisory capacity, assist school leadership and make recommendations to the chief state school officer relating to the effective operation of the school.

Summary of Issue:

Dr. Robin Cochran is recommended to fill the school district representative vacancy on the Kentucky School for the Deaf Advisory Board. She brings extensive leadership experience and a strong record of service to Kentucky's public schools. Dr. Cochran holds a Doctor of Education in Leadership from Northern Kentucky University and multiple administrative

certifications from Eastern Kentucky University, including superintendent, principal, and director of special education credentials.

With more than two decades in education, Dr. Cochran has been an influential voice in instructional leadership and special education. She has served on the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents Design Team, the Superintendent Advisory Committee for the Commissioner of Education, and the Kentucky Innovative Learning Network, as well as president of the Central Kentucky Education Cooperative. As a national presenter and mentor for new superintendents, Dr. Cochran exhibits commitment to collaboration and student success. Her experience and dedication will make her a strong school district representative on the Kentucky School for the Deaf Advisory Board.

Budget Impact:

Pursuant to KRS 167.035, members of the board serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Office of Special Education and Early Learning advertised the vacancy through multiple outlets.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Commissioner of Education

Category: ☐ Educator Workforce Diversity ☐ Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships ☐ Racial Equity Commitment ☐ Student-Centered Accountability System ☐ Early Childhood ☒ District Support
