

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

Topic: 2027 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses

Date: April 2026

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SYNOPSIS OF WHAT YOU WILL BE SHARING:

The proposed 2027 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the 2027 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

702 KAR 5:060 and KRS 156.153

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The KBE is required to approve the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses in accordance with 702 KAR 5:060, Section 2. KDE's Pupil Transportation Branch, with the assistance of transportation partners, annually reviews the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses and revises the specifications when experience, model changes, manufacturing techniques and product improvement indicate that revision and updating is necessary. Attached is a summary of the proposed revisions and a detailed description of the changes.

Summary of Issue:

The Pupil Transportation Branch convened a group of school district personnel and transportation professionals to provide input on revisions to the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The proposed revisions provide necessary updates.

Budget Impact:

There is no budget impact to KDE.

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:

KDE's Pupil Transportation Branch sought input from the Kentucky Association of Pupil Transportation, Student Transportation Association of Kentucky, local school district superintendents, driver trainers, drivers, technicians, and inspectors regarding necessary revisions to the Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses. The proposed 2027 Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses will also be reviewed by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council at its March 31, 2026 meeting.


CONTACT PERSON(S):

Matthew T. Ross, Associate Commissioner

Office of Finance and Operations

Email: matt.ross@education.ky.gov

(502) 564-1976, ext. 4321



Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commissioner's Management |