

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Annual Certification of Nonpublic Schools

**Date:** June 2026

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

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

### SYNOPSIS OF WHAT YOU WILL BE SHARING:

To take action on the request to certify the non-public schools that voluntarily applied to have been presented for certification by the Kentucky Non-public Schools Commission (KNPSC).

### 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 KNPSC ensures have successfully completed the accreditation process through a KBE approved accrediting agency.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.160(3), 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." For nearly 30 years, the KBE has certified non-public schools by considering recommendations from the KNPSC. Specifically, the KNPSC ensures the schools being presented for certification have successfully completed the accreditation process through one of the following KBE-approved accrediting agencies:

KNPSC, 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 KNPSC 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 KNPSC or another KBE-approved accrediting agency. Additionally, pursuant to 704 KAR 3:315, the KNPSC has submitted a letter to the KBE verifying that they are not seeking changes to certification procedures for 2027.

*Budget Impact:*

There is no budgetary impact on the KBE/KDE.

*Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:*

The KNPSC ensures the schools presented herein have met the accrediting standards of the KNPSC 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**

**GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.**

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