

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) STAFF NOTE

Topic: 2026 Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

Date: August 6, 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 KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) is seeking approval of the proposed annual updates to the KSB and KSD policies.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The commissioner recommends that the Board approve the annual policy updates for the KSB and KSD. These policies provide for the effective management of programs and operations at the schools, and the updates ensure continued compliance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.070, 167.015, 167.150, 167.240

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 156.070 gives the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) the management and control of the KSB and KSD. The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) provides a model policy service to local school districts, the KSB and the KSD. Policies for the KSB and KSD are updated annually to reflect laws passed during the legislative session, as well as changes to applicable regulations during the past year. These policies provide consistency between the two schools and align with the policies in place in local school districts across the state, except in those few instances when the unique circumstances of these schools require otherwise.

Summary of Issue:

A table reflecting which policies are recommended for adoption or amendment is attached along with a full copy of the updated policies.

In a few instances, the OSEEL elected to streamline the policy language to align with the specialized needs of the students at KSB and KSD. Two notable curriculum policies include:

Policy 08.1, Curriculum: The KDE will ensure that all curriculum, reading interventions and programs of instruction used to teach KSB and KSD students to read are high-quality, fully aligned to the state content standards and based on literacy strategies that are scientifically researched, though the curriculum may not include phonics or phonemic awareness, depending on students' individual needs.

Policy 08.1313, Dyslexia: The KDE elected not to adopt the dyslexia policy, as students at KSB and KSD have primary disabilities that fundamentally affect the applicability of dyslexia screening tools.

Budget Impact:

Possible fiscal impacts include the costs of additional training, drug testing and background checks for passenger vehicle drivers, as well as the administrative costs of implementing changes.

Groups Consulted and a Brief Summary of Responses:

The OSEEL consulted with KDE's Offices of Finance and Operations and Legal Services. Feedback was sought from the KSB and KSD Advisory Boards. Each advisory board provided input on ways to further align the policies with the needs of students at KSB and KSD, which could require further discussion during future advisory board meetings. KBE review and approval will be sought if further changes are proposed. This item will be presented for review by the Local Superintendents Advisory Council on July 28, 2026.

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Commissioner of Education

GOALS/PRIORITIES: Indicate all applicable options.

☐	Foster Educational Innovation Through Vibrant Learning Experiences
☐	Advance Educational Excellence Through Continuous Professional Improvement
☐	Cultivate Collaborative Partnerships
☐	Legislation
☒	Commissioner's Management